

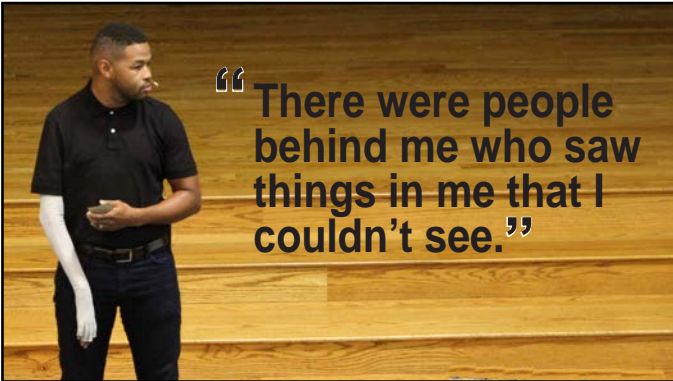
# TIGER TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2019 | Volume 11, Issue 2

THE ONLINE NEWSLETTER FOR GUNTER ISD



## Inky Johnson



“There were people behind me who saw things in me that I couldn't see.”

In partnership with Collinsville Independent School District and Whitesboro ISD Bearcats, we were honored to welcome Inky Johnson to our school. Inky shared his story of how one of his teachers had a positive impact on him because he cared (or dared) to get involved. He delivered a powerful message to our staff emphasizing how important teachers are in every child's life. Our teachers were inspired to be THAT teacher who sees those things a student might not see in themselves. A huge thanks to Region 10 Education Service Center for facilitating a grant to help make this happen for our schools.

Words can hurt or heal; what will yours do today?



2019-2020 GISD Faculty & Staff

# CONVOCATION & KICK OFF

## #20/20VISION

2019-20 Convocation started the school year off with a clear vision for the future!

Dr. Siler called roll, introduced our newest Tiger faculty, honored the 5 year pin recipients, and then handed the mic over to our awesome Teachers of the Year who made our vision clear. They shared stories from their hearts that touched each and every person in the room.

Special thanks to our School Board President, Scott Meyerdirk for welcoming us with encouraging words, and to the GHS Chamber Choir for opening our ceremony with the National Anthem.

Also thank you to Boy Scout Troop #3 and Girl Scout Troop #4746 for presenting the flags.



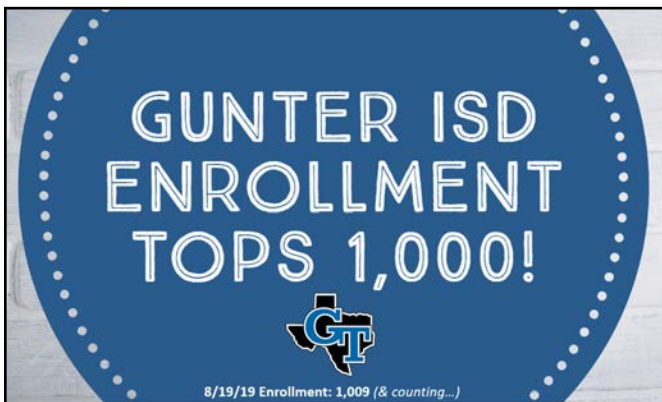
ESC Region X brought a very informative training concerning ethics to our staff. The information is important and we were very thankful to have the service center present to us. Our minds were nourished by the service center, and then our bodies and soul were nourished by a Subway lunch brought to us by Landmark Bank. They have been providing lunch (and some great give-a-ways) for us every year, and we really appreciate it!



Our GIFT Foundation went above and beyond during our kick-off and served us a pancake brunch! Thank you so much for everything you do for us and our students. Not only did GIFT serve us a pancake brunch this morning, they showered us with a GIFT Drawing that had so many wonderful prizes!

# Kick Off Grand Finale

The GHS band and cheerleaders always help us kick off the school year with a Grand Finale to our staff development days, and they came through again this year! Thanks for starting off the school year with a bang!

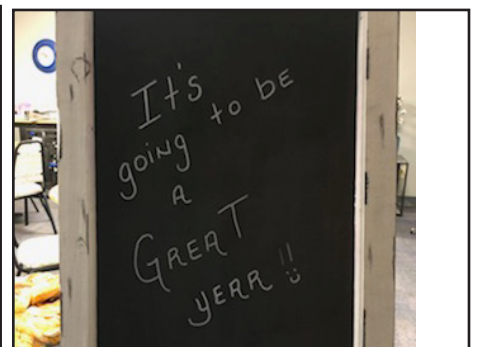


# Look

Exciting moment for Gunter ISD! We topped 1,000 students for the first time in district history! We crossed the threshold with 1,009 awesome Gunter Tigers to begin the school year. We are so excited to have you with us!

## PTO Shout Out!

We would like to give a shout-out to our campus PTOs. Back to School week was made so much better because of the efforts of these parents. The GES PTO treated the teachers/staff to POPs BBQ, the GMS PTO created a mouth watering breakfast bar, and the GHS PTO prepared a scrumptious lunch featuring grilled cheese sandwiches from Gunter Brew House ... AND the GHS PTO surprised us with new tables for the teacher's lounge. These groups give selflessly throughout the year to our staff, and we think they are awesome! THANK YOU for all you do!





# NEW TO THE AMBUSH!

We are so excited to welcome our New-to-GISD staff and faculty! We brought them all together to reflect on our district beliefs, and discuss how to bring our Strategic Plan to life in their classrooms/departments. We also learned a lot about them as they shared their "why" during a team bonding activity.



Andrew Applewhite  
MS Teacher/Coach



Caleb Bell  
Transportation Director



Jordan Gill  
MS Teacher/Coach



Shelby Hill  
MS SPED/Coach



Whitney Keel  
ES Teacher



Chonté Reeves  
HS Teacher



Jessica Sanders  
HS Teacher



Rachel Smith  
ES Teacher



Katie Stinton  
Asst. Principal/Coach



Andrew Moore  
HS Teacher



Whitney Katz  
HS Band Director



Scott Kennedy  
MS Band Director



Niki Castellow  
HS Teacher



Candie Lemberg  
MS Teacher



Jonathan Scoggins  
HS Teacher



Jessica Baker  
Food Services



Michelle Clemens  
Food Services



Crissy Bolt  
ES Aide

# Keep Our Kids Safe!

School is back in session, so please stay alert while you are driving during school hours. Buses are out on the roads picking up or dropping off our precious children, and we want to be sure you are watching out for them. When you see a bus, watch for the lights and/or stop sign. Flashing lights mean slow down and prepare to stop. The red stop sign on the side means **STOP**. When driving on our campuses, watch for students walking through the parking lots and do not drive in areas that are not permitted.



Middle School and High School Parents:

For the safety of our kids... Please do not pick up or drop off in the band parking lot. This is not a designated pick up or drop off area, nor is it safe. Our bus riders are loading and walkers use this area. Use the designated car line to pick up or drop off your children. Thank you.



## Keep Fire Lanes Clear

The Gunter Volunteer Fire & Rescue would like us to remind you to keep our fire lanes clear.



## GES Fall Book Fair

September 23rd – September 26th  
8:30 a.m.- 2:45 p.m.

Please check your student's backpacks for more information regarding these activities.

## Goodies with Grans

Wednesday, September 25th  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Please drop by and enjoy a cookie with your grandchild. The Book Fair will be open at this time and Tara Rice will have a special area set up for pictures with the grandparents.



# Elementary Ambush!

Coach Fieszel and some high school students “ambushed” the elementary students to make sure they knew the importance of reading. Coach Fieszel challenged them to read at least 30 minutes every day. Student leaders from football, choir, band, and cheer all emphasized the importance of reading and how it impacts the activities they are involved in. In EVERYTHING, you have to know how to read! So, Tiger Cubs... make sure you hang on to what they told you so you can read like a big Tiger one day!



## Summer Readers Recognized

The elementary school celebrated their summer readers the Ambush event. Each student who participated in the program received a certificate and a round of applause from their classmates!

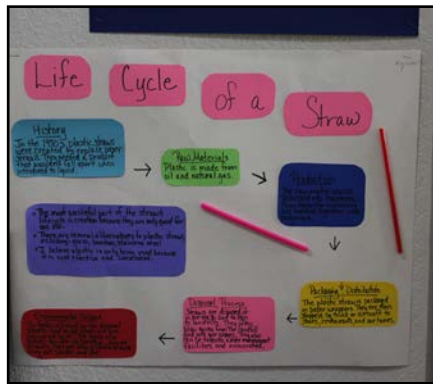
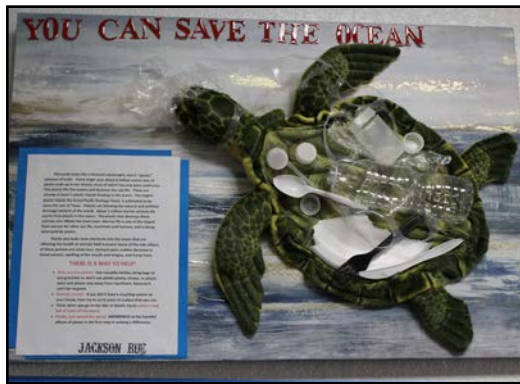


## Two Campuses, Two Teachers, MULTIPLE Fred Rescues!

Mrs. Bon's 5th grade students and Mrs. Pelzel's 3rd grade students were tasked to use “teamwork” and “problem-solving” skills to save Fred from his capsized boat. The students could only use the materials they were given to get Fred (the worm) out from under his boat and into a life preserver. They did an awesome job working with their teams.



# 8th Grade - One Straw at a Time!

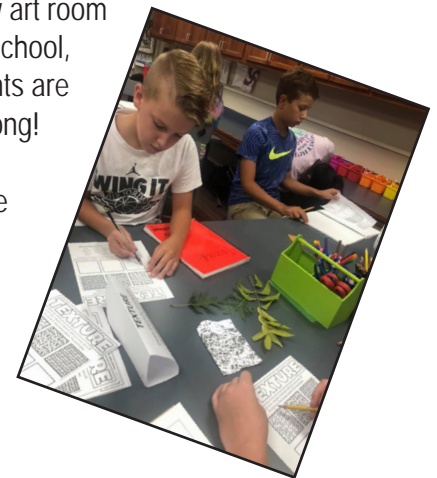


8th grade Pre-AP Science students became much more aware of the drawbacks of using plastics during their summer assignment. Their summer assignment included 3 parts: watching and answering questions from the movie "A Plastic Ocean"; creating a graphic explaining the life cycle of some type of single use plastic; and creating an action plan highlighting what WE can do to solve the Plastic Problem. Students created videos, Instagram Pages, graphics and art work to share their concerns and plans. Students shared their plans when we got back to school and ... began using Avocado Pit Straws instead of plastic!



## Classroom Makeover

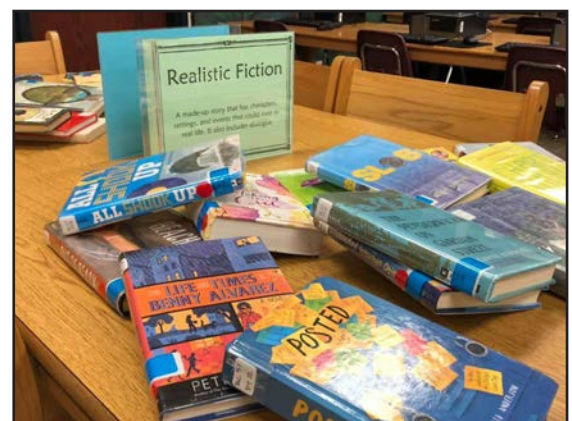
There is a new art room at the middle school, and the students are starting off strong! Mrs. Bullard's 6th graders are learning about the Seven Elements of Art.



## A date with a book?



Mrs. Lemberg and Mrs. Marr hosted Book Speed Dating. For one day only, students were allowed to judge a book by its cover, but for 2-3 minutes, they had to commit to their "date" aka the book. Students then had a table talk about what they liked and didn't like, the various books' reputation and all the details!





## Man Lands on the Moon - July 1969 Students learn inside lunar module - August 2019

To celebrate the **50th** anniversary of man's landing on the moon, Mr. Fletcher's science classes spent the first day of school inside the 'The Eagle' Lunar Lander. Students uncovered important hidden facts written in UV pens about the moon landing and shuttle missions. With their UV flashlights, students scavenged and hunted for the data. NASA is a great example of how science impacts society. NASA spinoffs (things developed for NASA that we use in everyday life) have been created every year since the inception of NASA. The students had a BLAST inside the lander! Maybe we have inspired a future NASA scientist :)



## Learning Lab Skills

Measuring weight, volume, and length are skills you must have to perform science labs. The 5th grade science students practiced these skills as well as using a magnifying glass to view details not typically seen with our eyes. Learning is always fun with Mrs. Bon!



Mrs. Murphy's class is full of pure genius! They conquered a Digital Escape Room all while reviewing lab equipment and procedures.







# Angelica Pelley

By: Mitzi Nelson

“When will my reflection show who I am inside?” Gunter High School Senior, Angelica Pelley, sang these words taken from Disney’s hit movie Mulan as the introduction to an autism training for teachers at Western Heights Preschool in Sherman.

Angelica was asked to be part of the autism training to help preschool teachers understand what it is like to have autism. Angelica’s words in her opening song reflect what many individuals with a disability feel, the desire to be seen for more than maladaptive behaviors or physical abnormalities.

Angelica has been a student in Gunter I.S.D. since Kindergarten. She was diagnosed with autism in middle school. Her family stated that they always knew Angelica struggled but didn’t know the exact reason until her diagnosis. Angelica has surpassed many people’s

expectations and now stands tall as a Gunter High School Senior.

Angelica is an emerging advocate for autism awareness. She is able to tell her story and explain what it’s like to have sensory deficits, the difficulty in knowing how to “read” social situations and react appropriately, and battle the anxiety that comes with not understanding the world around her in the same way others understand it.

Angelica bravely stood in front of preschool teachers, sang her song, and told her story. She answered questions about things teachers can do in the classroom to help other children with autism. By the end of the presentation, the teachers were empowered with knowledge of effective teaching strategies and inspired to look at gifts inside every child. Angelica is helping all of us to see beyond the reflection into what’s inside.



# Band Notes



Reminder that the HS band rehearses Monday evenings from 6-9 pm, and Wednesday & Thursday mornings beginning at 7:00 am. Rehearsals are open to the public, but please do not park in the south lot where the band rehearses.



## Support our Band Program

MS & HS band is selling Gunter Band apparel from **August 26th to September 18th** as a fundraiser. Just follow the link below to purchase short and long sleeve tees, jackets, hoodies, blankets, beanies, tumblers, etc! All proceeds will benefit your Tiger band programs.

[Fancloth.shop/bqnew](http://Fancloth.shop/bqnew)

If you wish to support a specific student, it will ask for their name. Thank you!!!



# GUNTER HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR DEPARTMENT

1102 N. Preston Road | Gunter, Texas 75058

903-433-1542 | www.ekulbeth@gunterisd.org

## GUNTER CHOIR SPONSORSHIP

It is that time of year again where The Gunter Choir is looking for business and personal sponsors for the 2019-2020 school year. The GHSCD is raising money to make improvements in our program and showcase these talented students. Sponsors will be listed in five printed programs over the year including the Fall and Spring Concerts, Disney Concert, Winter Concert, and Hard Luck Cafe. Programs are 8 1/2" x 11" folded in half (5.5"x 8").

The Gunter Choir Department believes in these talented choir students, and they love sharing their talent with our community. Sponsorships make it possible to continue to offer experiences enabling young singers to develop their own unique talent. This year, the Chamber Choir will be taking a trip to Memphis, TN to learn more about music, showmanship, and careers. Your sponsorship helps these dedicated, hard-working students reach new heights in their musical goals. Thank you in advance for your support of our choir and community!

Choose your sponsorship level, fill in the information below, and return the form to the school. Please make checks payable to Gunter Choir Department. You may email [ekulbeth@gunterisd.org](mailto:ekulbeth@gunterisd.org) or [lbking0902@gmail.com](mailto:lbking0902@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thank you for your continued support!

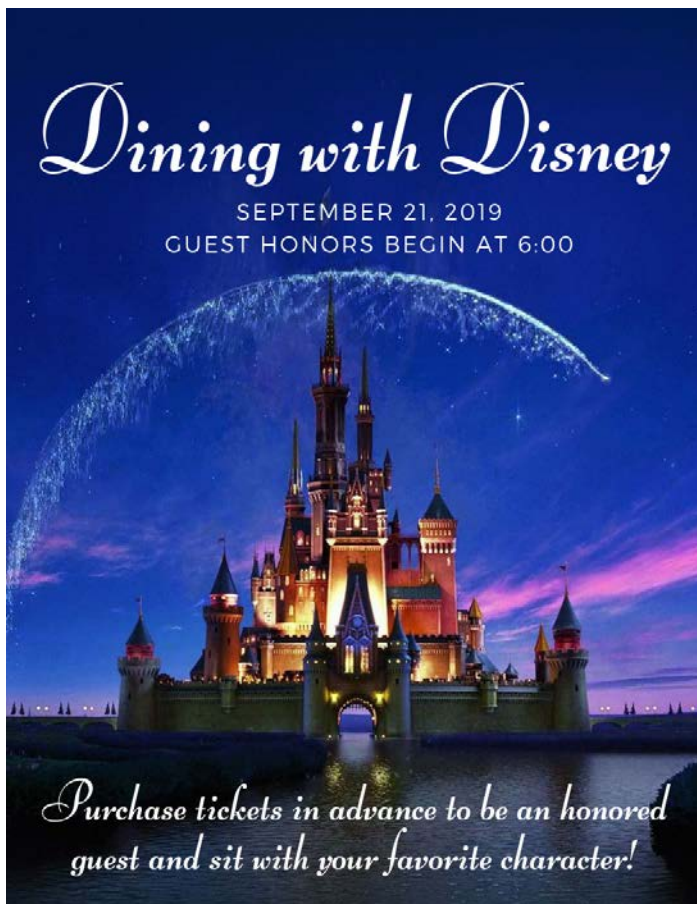
Name of Business or Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ad sizes and prices:

_____	Bronze \$25.00
_____	Gold \$50.00
_____	Silver \$100.00
_____	Platinum \$250.00
_____	Diamond \$500.00



This year, the GHS Choir is making some changes to our Dining with Disney experience. We have decided to make the event more interactive for the children and parents who attend.

To begin the enchanted evening, and to create a more personalized experience, those who purchase their tickets in advance will be formally announced into the dining area and escorted to their seats by their very own chosen character.

Another exciting change this year allows the guests to dine with the Disney characters that are attending our event. Sign up early and choose your favorite!

You won't want to miss "Story Time," featuring our special guest Anna from Frozen during intermission.

Finally, there will be a "Meet and Greet" after the show, where the kids will be able get autographs and take pictures with their favorite characters.

The show will be on Saturday, September 21st at 6:00 PM at the High School. We can't wait to see you there!

### Ticket Prices

\$10/person (includes meal)

\$5/person (for those who do not wish to eat)

Fill out the Dining with Disney Ticket on the following page, and return with your payment by September 13th!

# Dining with Disney

## Ticket Order Form

September 21, 2019

Purchase your tickets in advance to be an honored guest! As an honored guest you will be acknowledged upon entrance and have the choice to sit with your favorite character!

All tickets are \$10.00 per person.

Please return this form and money to your student's teacher by September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Child 1

Character choice #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### Child 2

Character choice #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### Child 3

Character choice #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### Child 4

Character choice #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate choice: \_\_\_\_\_

### Character List

Anna {Frozen}  
Ariel  
Aurora {Sleeping Beauty}  
Belle  
Cinderella  
Elsa  
Flynn Rider  
Jasmine  
Jessie {Toy Story}  
Meg {Hercules}  
Mickey Mouse  
Minnie Mouse  
Moana  
Mulan  
Pocahontas  
Rapunzel  
Snow White  
Tiana {Princess and the Frog}  
Tinker Bell  
Ursula {Little Mermaid}

# All State Choir Competitors Tuning up for Competition

Several musicians spent time over their summer break attending All-State Choir camps. The camps helped them develop their talent so they will be fierce competitors. We wish them luck as they head into contest season.



## "Own it" – Principal Point

by Chris Dodd, GHS Principal

By this time your student(s) will have completed the first two full weeks of the 2019-20 school year. Our aim is that they come home confident the school year will be one in which they grow exponentially as a young adult. My sincere hope is that I too head home believing the same growth we desire in our students will take place amongst our faculty. People are not changing, but the "world" in which they live in is. While our students have tremendous resources at their fingertips, they are likewise exposed to elements of society that many of us grown-ups navigated at a much more mature age. It is hard to be a kid today. It is even harder to be a parent.

Parents – we are on the same team. We are committed to providing a place your student feels valued, invested in; a place to fail forward, a place to grow. Our mission is simple this school year:

Help every student believe they have purpose, a place to belong, and give them platforms to be challenged through leadership opportunities.

We understand our role as caretakers of our most important natural resource and the future of our society – OUR kids. Our community appointed leaders expect us to protect a culture of respect and responsibility.

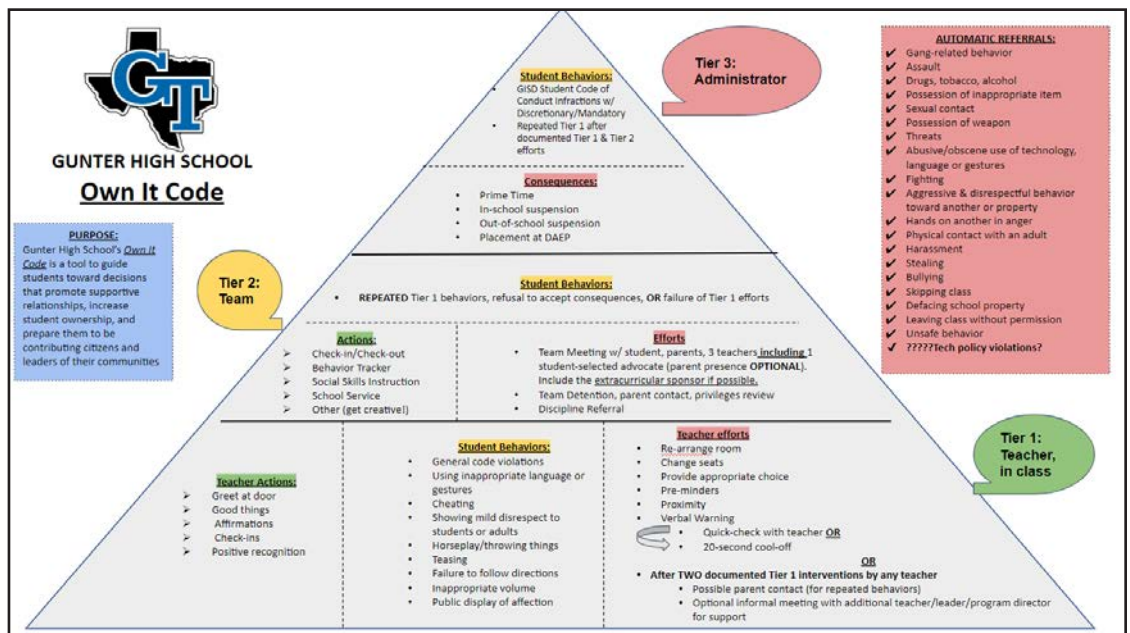
I drove home at the parent meetings that we expect our students to respect the dress code, be on time, exercise digital citizenship, and treat others in a professional manner. This is what responsible adults do. As educators, we are here to lead a building of young adults.

Our faculty has adopted a system we are calling the "Own it Code" to assist in the process of building respectful relationships and preserving a healthy learning environment. Our graduates should learn two things – if nothing else – during their time here. Effective communication skills and conflict resolution techniques. Those two things, along with a sense of self-awareness, are foundational to productive living. The "Own it Code" provides a template for students and faculty to grow together.

There is a simple formula to being successful at Gunter High School. Care about your future so much, that your actions impact others in a positive manner. In short – it is about YOU. You choose success.

We are going to help the young adult in your house make positive choices in 2019-20. When their choices lead to opportunities to learn, we will be there for them. And that's the Principal Point for September.

This is going to be a Great year.



ESCAPE THE HEAT...

# COME GET THE SCOOP ABOUT GUNTER FFA



- Parents and Students Welcome!
- Learn about FFA!
- Play Ag Games!
- Parents of Freshman/First Year ag students are encouraged to attend the Parent meeting!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD  
7:00PM

@GUNTER HIGH SCHOOL AG CLASSROOM

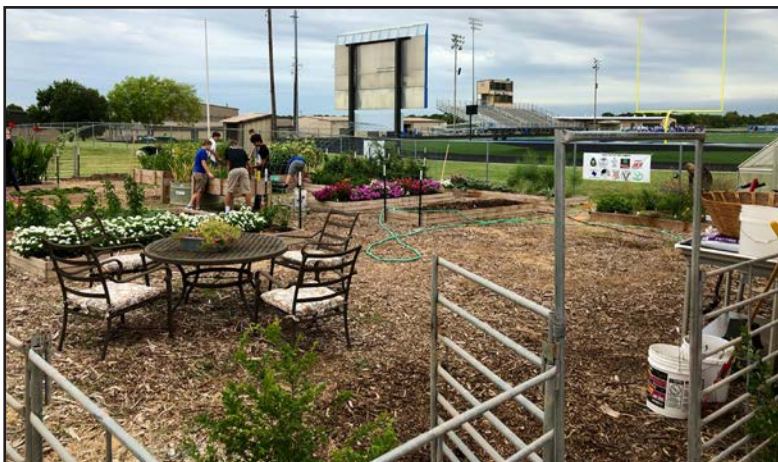
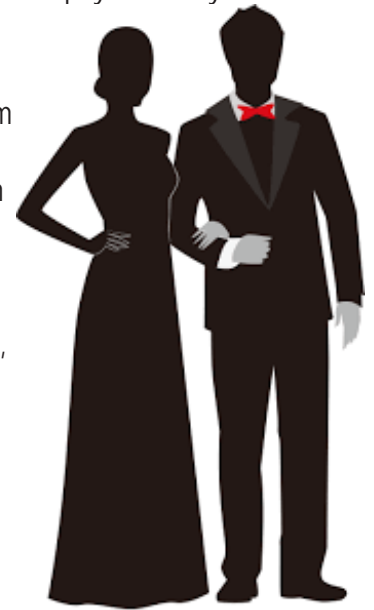
## Junior Prom Payment Deadlines

It is tradition for the junior class to host the Junior / Senior Prom. Therefore, we must begin collecting money in order to reserve a facility for the event. The payment may be made all at once, or may be broken down into two payments.

Each junior attending the prom must pay a total of \$150.

- \$75.00 due by October 16th
- Balance due by March 2nd

\* All non-GHS junior and senior date tickets are \$75.00, which are due by March 2nd.



## Fresh from the Tiger Garden to the Tiger Kitchens



Together, they make our lunches awesome! The food service team and the Tiger gardeners make a great team. Students enjoyed some hearty

vegetable soup made with fresh herbs from the Tiger Garden. The garden also provided fresh cantaloupe for lunch. Mrs. Osburn and her students have done an awesome job keeping the garden growing all through the summer. We love that our cafeteria and horticulture class partner together to provide fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables for our students.



# Report from RYLA

by Chris Dodd, GHS Principal



Our campus focus again this school year is to promote, preserve, and protect a culture of excellence that has propelled our district to prominence. We strive to elevate our students by instilling in them self-confidence, engaging them in purposeful instruction for life, and empowering them by providing opportunities to lead. We are very intentional to utilize our talented staff and students and encourage them to cultivate initiatives for growth in their programs and classrooms. The staff and students are responding!

One of our best campus ventures is to annually send students to RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Academy) camp. This week long event, sponsored by Rotary International, takes the best and brightest seniors from around the state and places them in a boot-camp setting, where they prepare to leave a lasting mark on their campuses during their final nine months as a member of their high school community. The students leave camp physically and emotionally exhausted but chiseled into young campus leaders understanding the value of selflessness, empathy, and equipped with an encouraging spirit. No one comes home the same.

We have been very blessed to send a contingency of students for the last decade and many of them re-up as graduates to serve as advisory staff and counselors. Recent Gunter RYLA participants have parlayed their experiences into an Air Force Academy appointment, admittance to Duke University, MIT, Austin College Honors program, and a spot on a Division One Cheer squad. Others are on their way to med school, law school, and even working the hallways as educators.

Seniors Schuyler Marshall, Keely Ward, and Kara Curtis represented the Ambush at this year's camp. The trio embraces the concept of leadership through service. They are model students and involve themselves in community venture.

Keely Ward, daughter of Tim and Janelle Ward, moved to Gunter in eighth grade. The entire family quickly embraced the concept of "involvement". Keely is a member of the Chamber Choir, HOSA, Student Council, and NHS. She is an avid reader and often is found with her nose in a book. Keely is undecided on her college

destination but plans to major in Pre-Med or molecular/cellular biology in route to a career in pediatric oncology. Keely shares that, "RYLA provided an experience that taught me different ways I could become a more effective leader, and that anyone has the capability of stepping up to take hold of that role. I have become more independent and confident in my capabilities as a leader, and hope that I can continue to bring my acquired knowledge to other aspects of my life in order to teach those around me the significance of being a strong, dependable leader others look up to."

Schuyler Marshall exudes personality. He is the son of Doctors Winston and DeAnn Marshall and twin brother of William. Schuyler has been a Gunter Tiger for six years. Everyone knows that he is heading to Texas A&M because he only sports Aggie colors and swag. He plans to study computer science and eventually earn an MBA. Schuyler will manage a software company. He is a member of the Tiger Tech Team (T3), a student IT program that provides much needed technical assistance to our students and staff. Schuyler is also a leader in the NHS and Student Council programs. He is a paint-ball enthusiast and competes in league play in the Metroplex. Schuyler writes of his RYLA experience that it was, "one of the most life changing weeks in my life. The activities pushed me out of my comfort zone and showed me that sometimes you have to take huge risks for the things you want in life. I grew so much during this week and if anyone has the chance to go to RYLA, or is even questioning it, go for it!"

Kara Curtis, daughter of Bill and Nicole Curtis, is currently the top ranked student in a very large and competitive class of 2020. Richmond University is tops on her list because of its standout Pre-Law program. Kara plans on majoring in International Political Economics. She is going to practice corporate law. Kara has been a Gunter Tiger for five years and participates in Chamber Choir, Golf, NHS, Academic UIL Literary Criticism, UIL Social Studies, HOSA, and Girl Scouts. Kara recently completed her Gold Star project, the equivalent to an Eagle Scout program. She renovated several classrooms used for dual credit. Kara lived with a family in Panama during the summer of 2017 and attended high school there. The trip gave her a unique perspective and a greater appreciation of foreign culture, in addition to life at home. Kara explains that, "RYLA really helped me understand when, as a leader, it is your responsibility to be at the front of the group telling people what to do, and when it is more beneficial to lead from behind. I realized that sometimes raising others up into those 'in charge' positions and helping them realize their vision can help you create a more productive group. In short, RYLA taught me that to be a team player, sometimes the best thing you can do is take a step back and think about how to promote leadership in others."

We are thankful to our local Preston Trails Rotary Club for providing the opportunity of a lifetime for these Seniors. They returned "different" and the people around them can see their growth mind-set by how they lead on campus.

And for that reason, Keely, Schuyler, and Kara are our Tiger Times Students of the Month for September!



## AP English Language and Composition Exam - THEY PASSED!

The AP English Language and Composition Exam tests a student's understanding of the literary concepts covered in the course units, as well as their ability to analyze texts and develop written arguments based on interpretations. The students pictured worked hard during the 2018-19 school and passed their AP Exam. Congratulations!

(Not pictured: Ashley Bruner)

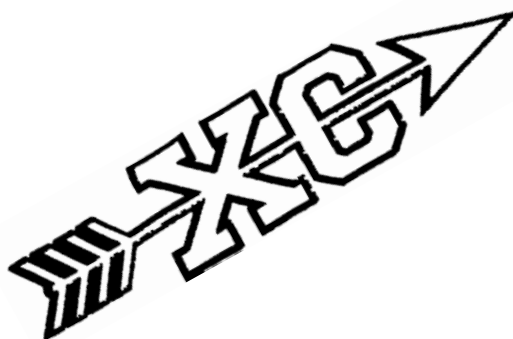
## Small Town Advertising! We LOVE it!

Thank you to all the parents who were involved in keeping up our hay bale tradition!

## Gunter Cross Country 2019 Schedule

- Aug. 24 Commerce HS/MS
- Aug. 31 Madill, OK Madill City Lake, on City Lake Road HS/MS
- Sept. 7 S&S HS/MS
- Sept. 14 Jesse Owens Sports Complex (Dallas) HS
- Sept. 18 Lindsey HS/MS
- Sept. 28 TBD HS
- Oct. 3 Blue Ridge HS/MS
- Oct. 9 Stephenville HS
- Oct. 15 District @ Pottsboro HS/MS
- Oct. 28 Regionals @ Jesse Owens Sports Complex
- Nov. 9 State @ Round Rock

Revised 8/5/19





Thank you to everyone who came out to Meet the Tigers. We are excited to see these students in action this fall!

**FOOTBALL SEASON OPENER vs Daingerfield  
TIGERS WIN - 22-21**

## August Volleyball Scoreboard

- 8/10 - Gunter beat Lovejoy JV to win the Silver Championship for Division 2 of the Nike ASC/LISD Tournament.
- 8/20 - 3-2 (L) - Gunter vs. Celina
- 8/22 - 2-0 (W) - Gunter vs. Denison
- 8/22 - 2-1 (W) - Gunter vs. Ryan
- 8/23 - 3-2 (L) - Gunter vs. Aubrey
- 8/24 - 2-1 (L) - Gunter vs. Ponder
- 8/24 - 2-0 (W) - Gunter vs. Ranchview
- 8/24 - 2-0 (L) - Gunter vs. Lake Dallas
- 8/27 - 3-0 (W) - Gunter vs. Van Alstyne
- 8/30 - 3-0 (W) 0 Gunter vs. Lindsey



Special thanks to OurGunter for the great action photos!







August 22, 2019

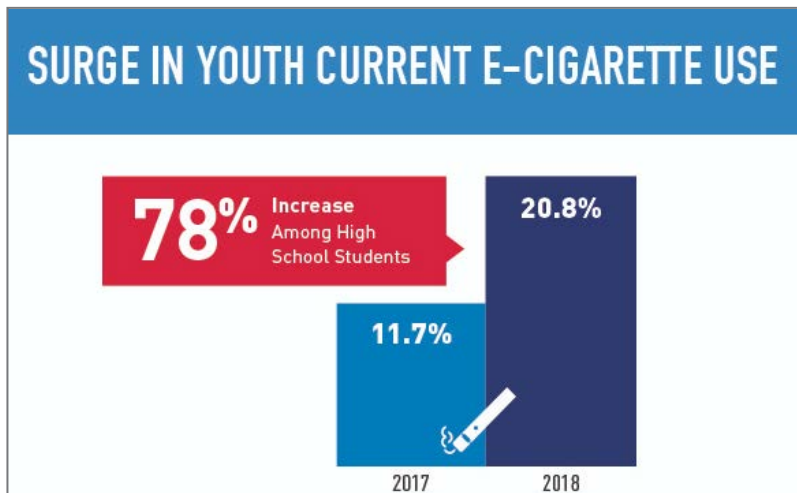
Dear Tiger Family,

It has been a wonderful start to the school year! Car lines are getting shorter, student transitions are getting quicker and I've seen nothing but smiles as I've gone campus to campus. As our students are now off and running, I want to take a moment to touch base about a more serious issue that is gripping our nation's youth: **vaping**.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention released news this past week that it has identified **153 cases of severe lung disease associated with vaping** across 16 states, including Texas from June 28, 2019 to August 20, 2019. That was an increase from 94 cases just 4 days earlier.

You may be wondering why this is being sent as an all-district communication and not just for our older students & parents. Not only is this epidemic starting younger and younger with our youth, this is an education piece that needs to start EARLY. I have seen in my generation the near eradication of cigarette smoking amongst youth. Our parents fought hard to teach their kids about the dangers of smoking and it worked. And then without us even realizing, we lost the war on nicotine almost overnight through vaping: Because of kid-centric flavors like cotton candy, mango, mint or flavors mimicked after their favorite cereal; due to the major vaping companies paying social media "influencers" to promote it as the thing to do; and because the devices themselves look like innocuous USB drives and are able to be hidden (and inhaled) virtually undetected.

One of the challenges to this vaping epidemic is that it does not discriminate. This is not an issue where only a handful of troubled kids are taking part. As one parent shared with us, *"I've been told by many parents that they don't believe their child is or would (use a vape). I can tell you that many of them are. I can tell you that there's a good chance that your smart, kind, sweet or seemingly innocent kid that is never in trouble has tried it, or worse - is doing it."* The FDA's 2019 report notes that the **number of teens vaping increased 78% in one year; 21% of all teens reported vaping**. And before you think this is a high school only statistic, **the percent of Middle School students is also on the rise jumping 48% in just this past year**. And honestly, we feel like these statistics are lower than reality.



This is an issue not just in schools across our nation; this is an issue in OUR Gunter ISD schools.

We updated our Student Code of Conduct last year to include disciplinary consequences for vaping ranging from multiple days in ISS to removal from our campuses and placement in DAEP. But I want to caution ourselves in thinking that discipline is the sole answer in this issue. One tiny JUUL pod has the equivalent nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes, and our young people have been known to vape multiple pods a day. This issue isn't just about kids making poor choices; **it is about addiction**. And our response needs to be reflective of that. We are looking at this issue with a wide lens to include prevention through education and public awareness, detection systems, disciplinary consequences, and support for nicotine addiction.

Last year we started a districtwide Vaping Awareness Committee made up of teachers, leaders, support staff, counselors and nurses and brainstormed ways to reach kids about this topic. We joined together with multiple districts in our area to host an "Escape the Vape" week-long regional event where teachers developed learning experiences around vaping and we shared vaping facts through announcements and social media and hosted a vaping essay contest. We also brought in nationally renowned author and speaker, Robb Holladay, to host a parent seminar and campus assemblies to share the truth around this epidemic. But we know that's just the start.

We will be continuing these efforts but we NEED your help! We need your help at home in having conversations with your children (young and old) about the dangers of vaping and in being mindful of what vaping paraphernalia look like and smell like. I've included several resources below to help on that end. We are also establishing a community task-force to change our statistics in Gunter ISD. We want leaders, parents, teachers, police, community health professionals, and our students to come together to help develop strategies to prevent and stop vaping in our schools and homes. **We hope you will join us in these efforts. To take a role in this work, please drop an email [taskforce@gunterisd.org](mailto:taskforce@gunterisd.org).**

I know this is not the most pleasant topic to start off the year with, but with the sobering news from the CDC this past weekend and hearing our own campus principals share their concerns about what they're seeing and hearing already, the reality is that Gunter ISD is not immune to this epidemic. Please partner with us to find the best ways to deter kids from making this choice.

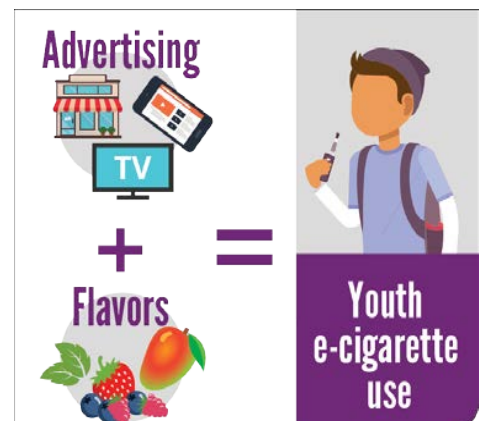
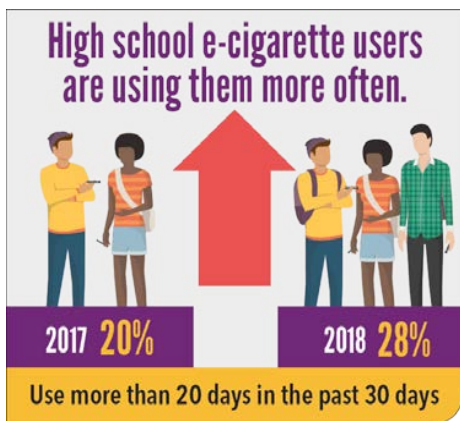
Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Siler  
Gunter ISD Superintendent  
903.433.4750  
[jsiler@gunterisd.org](mailto:jsiler@gunterisd.org)

213 N Preston Rd, Gunter, TX, 75058  
Phone: 903.433.4750 Fax: 903.433.1053 [www.gunterisd.org](http://www.gunterisd.org)

## Resources:

- CDC Release Aug 17: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s0817-pulmonary-disease-ecigarettes.html>
- CDC Release Aug 21: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s0821-cdc-fda-states-e-cigarettes.html>
- DFW NBC North TX Teen Story Aug 21: <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/health/North-Texas-Says-Vaping-Nearly-Killed-Him-557655531.html>
- CBS Video North Texas Teen Aug 20: <https://dfw.cbslocal.com/video/4149589-north-texas-teen-believes-vaping-led-to-trip-to-icu/>
- FDA Report Feb 2019: <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/youth-and-tobacco/2018-nyts-data-startling-rise-youth-e-cigarette-use>
- CDC Resources on Youth Vaping: [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html)
- TX Department of Health Resources on Youth Vaping: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/tobacco/E-Cigarettes/>
- Truth Initiative Vaping Fact Sheet: [https://truthinitiative.org/sites/default/files/media/files/2019/03/Truth\\_E-Cigarette\\_FactSheet\\_FINAL.pdf](https://truthinitiative.org/sites/default/files/media/files/2019/03/Truth_E-Cigarette_FactSheet_FINAL.pdf)
- Kids Health – Vaping: What You Need To Know: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html>
- Center on Addiction: What Parents Should Know about the Different Vaping Devices: <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/e-cigarettes/recreational-vaping/what-parents-should-know-about-different-vaping-devices>



213 N Preston Rd, Gunter, TX, 75058

Phone: 903.433.4750 Fax: 903.433.1053 [www.gunterisd.org](http://www.gunterisd.org)

**From the Desk of Mrs. Lauren Rogers,  
Food Services Manager**



**SCHOOL LUNCH**  
VERSUS  
**BAG LUNCH**

**NUTRITION & ECONOMICS**

Just a quick comparison of sack lunches and buying a hot, delicious and nutritious meal at your child's cafeteria each day. We are here to make it easier on you and provide all the essential nutrients for their growing bodies; and it's cheaper for you!

**Important!!!**

**Parents please submit new Free/Reduced meal applications now. They are available at every school campus, administration building, on-line, and in every cafeteria. Everyone must fill out new application each year.**

 <p><b>Time Saving</b> 0 minutes of prep time at home... less stress in the morning</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>School Meals are required to meet high nutrition standards featuring whole grains, fruits &amp; vegetables &amp; milk</b></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>Provides:</b> More Protein More Calcium More Vitamin A More Fruits More Vegetable</p> <p><small>Journal of Nutrition Education &amp; Behavior Nov/Dec 2014</small></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>Average Price</b> Sliced Turkey &amp; Cheese Sandwich on whole grain bread veggies &amp; dip, milk, fruit</p> <p><b>GISD Prices \$2.75 - \$2.95</b></p>	 <p><b>One More Thing To Do Each Morning</b> Spending just 10 - 15 minutes prepping lunches = 30 - 40 hours per school year</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>Studies Show Lunches packed at home contained more sweetened beverages, snack chips, desserts, and refined grains</b></p> <p><small>Journal Nutrition &amp; Dietetics - 11/2016</small></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>Provides:</b> More Calories More Fat More Saturated Fat More Sugar More Salty Snacks</p> <p><small>Journal of Nutrition Education &amp; Behavior Nov/Dec 2014</small></p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p><b>Average Price</b> Comparable Menu including sandwich on whole grain bread, veggies &amp; dip, milk, fruit</p> <p><b>\$3.46 - \$4.26</b> <small>Prices based on local grocery prices</small></p>
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In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Fundraisers that you can support from your couch!**

**Gunter Tiger Fan Club** - <https://guntertigerfanclub.org/shop?olsPage=products>

The Gunter Tiger Fan Club has everything you need to support your Tigers! Check out this Gunter Gear:

**Volleyball - Deadline: September 6th** - [Shop NOW](#)

Check out this Ruby's Rubbish for our Gunter Tigers! Volleyball Spirit wear AND more! Great way to stock up on your Gunter Gear!

**MS & HS Band - Deadline: September 18th** - [Fancloth.shop/bqnew](http://Fancloth.shop/bqnew)

Short and long sleeve tees, jackets, hoodies, blankets, beanies, tumblers, etc...

If you wish to support a specific student, it will ask for their name.



# Gunter Independent School District Board Briefs

Thursday, August 15, 2019

## **GISD Public Hearing 6:00pm**

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*Public Hearing to discuss the Proposed 2019-2020 Tax Rate and Budget was called to order by Scott Meyerdirk, Board President. A quorum was established. All members were present.*

## **GISD Special Called Board Meeting 6:31pm**

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*The Special meeting was called to order by Scott Meyerdirk, Board President. A quorum was established.*

**ATTENDANCE:** Board members included: Jeff Banks, Dr. Gary Harris, Gabe Johnson, John Jonas, Scott Meyerdirk, Lynn Reed and Steve Smith; District attendance included: Dr. Jill Siler, Kelly Teems, Christy Nolen, Renee Maples, Caleb Bell and Brittany Floyd.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Back to School Update: Dr. Siler shared her excitement that staff and students were back! The staff celebrated at Convocation earlier in the week with incredible speeches by our Teachers of the Year: Jackie Mahana, Jeannie Schroeter and Elizabeth Kulbeth, along with opening remarks by Gunter ISD Board President. The celebrations continued at the final Kick-Off Brunch, hosted by GIFT who made a fantastic breakfast and gave away over 50 door prizes to our staff. We also hosted Inky Johnson who shared an inspirational message about the tremendous impact we have on kids. Our first day of school was great with over 1,000 students enrolled.

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- The Board approved the Grayson County Special Education Co-op SSA Budget as presented for the 2019-2020 school year.
- The Board approved the Tax Rate at \$1.51834, a 6% decrease for 2019-2020. This included lowering the M&O rate from \$1.17 to \$1.0684 and the I&S rate remaining at \$.45. The Board approved the Gunter ISD Budget as presented for the 2019-2020 school year. This included \$10.9 million in revenue and \$10.4 million in expenditures for a total surplus budget of \$512,339.
- The Board approved Dara Arrington, Kim Patterson, Chris Dodd, Heather Hale and Kelly Teems as Gunter ISD 2019-2020 Evaluators. The Board approved Lacy Russell, Salina Byrd, Amy Byrd and Christy Nolen as the Grayson County Special Education Co-op SSA 2019-2020 Evaluators
- The Board approved the 2019-20 Student Handbook as presented.
- The Board approved the resolution to enter into an SSA Agreement with the Grayson County Coop.
- The Board approved the bids for 2 new buses.

**No Closed Session. ADJOURNMENT:** Regular meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15pm

# 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

[www.gunterisd.org](http://www.gunterisd.org)

[www.facebook.com/gunterisdschools](http://www.facebook.com/gunterisdschools)

[facebook.com/gunterhighschool](http://facebook.com/gunterhighschool)

[www.facebook.com/guntermiddleschool](http://www.facebook.com/guntermiddleschool)

Twitter @Gunter\_ISD



**FRIENDS TODAY.  
CHANGE-MAKERS  
TOMORROW.**

Become a Girl Scout.  
**JOIN NOW**

Gunter Girl Scouts is open to girls grades K-12.

For more info, contact Donna Harvey at  
940-367-0177 or [scoutleader4christ@gmail.com](mailto:scoutleader4christ@gmail.com).

The traditional 8th grade pie sale (pies, cookies, cheesecakes and southwest cuisine) started August 30th and runs through September 11th. Delivery will be on Wednesday, October 2nd. If you don't know an 8th grader and would like to purchase any of the scrumptious items, contact Mrs. Murphy at the middle school.



*"Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one."*

– Eleanor Roosevelt

Mrs. Shroeter's 5th graders looked at their individuality by writing Bio-Poems and creating their own "mini-me". These cuties are lining the middle school hallway and reminding students that everyone is important and unique!

# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  	2 <b>Student and Staff Holiday</b>  	3 5p Volleyball @ Melissa	4	5 5p MS Volleyball vs Ponder @ Gunter 6p JV Football @ Pottsboro	6 9:30a Pep Rally 4:30p Volleyball vs Paris North Lamar @ Gunter 7:30p Football vs Pottsboro @ Gunter	7 CC Meet @ S&S JV Volleyball Tournament @ Carrollton
8	9 4:30p District 3 FFA Meeting 5p MS Volleyball @ Callisburg	10 5p Volleyball @ Tioga	11	12 4:30p JH Football vs Whitesboro @ Gunter 7:30p JV Football vs Whitesboro @ Gunter	13 4:30p Volleyball vs Pilot Point @ Gunter 7:30p Football @ Whitesboro	14 JV Blue Volleyball Tournament @ Frisco Heritage CC Meet @ Jesse Owens Sports Complex (Dallas) Robotics Kick Off @ UTD
15	16 5p MS Volleyball vs Pottsboro @ Gunter	17 5p Volleyball vs Pottsboro @ Gunter	18 CC Meet @ Lindsey	19 4:30p JH Football @ Pilot Point 6p Board Meeting 7p JV Football @ Pilot Point	20 9:30a Pep Rally 4:30p Volleyball @ Whitesboro 7:30p Football vs Pilot Point @ Gunter	21 6p Dining with Disney
22	23 MS Volleyball Tournament @ VA (7A/8A)	24 5p Volleyball vs Sherman @ Gunter	25 GHS Picture Day	26 5p JH Football @ Nocona 5:30p JV Football vs Nocona @ Home	27 4:30p Volleyball @ Callisburg 7:30p Football @ Nocona	28
29 2-4p Mini Cheer Camp  <b>Homecoming Week</b>  	30 5p MS Volleyball @ Howe	1 5p Volleyball @ Ponder	2 6p Homecoming Tailgate	3 CC Meet @ Blue Ridge 4:30p JH Football vs S&S @ Gunter 7p JV Football @ S&S	4 <b>1p Early Release</b> 4p Volleyball vs S&S @ Gunter (Homecoming) 1:45 pm - Parade Line Up 2:30 pm - Parade 5p BBQ Supper 7p Coronation 7:30 Football vs S&S  HS Homecoming Dance immediately following the game.  <b>HOMECOMING</b>	5 Band - Sounds of Marching Contest



# Gunter Tigers

## Mini Cheer Clinic



Hosted by GHS Cheerleaders

Sunday, September 29

2-4 pm

Parent Show-Off at 3:45 pm

Gunter High School Commons

grades PK-6

Cost: \$35 (includes t-shirt)

Participants will perform at halftime of the Homecoming football game on October 4.

*\*Please return forms to GES, GMS or GHS office no later than Friday, September 13.\**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TShirt Size: Youth      S      M      L      Adult      S      M      L

I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in the Gunter Mini Cheer Clinic. This authorization shall waive, release and absolve Gunter ISD and the clinic staff from liability for injury or illness incurred at the clinic. I give the staff permission to act accordingly to its best judgment in case of emergency.

Parent Signature

Date