

THE REVIEW FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

August 24, 2026, Issue # 2

The latest news, views, and announcements

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The Sun Has Set On Our Beloved James A. Shanks Middle School 1967-2026 126,373 Sq. Ft. 1092 Student Capacity

James A. Shanks Middle School was located at 1400 W. King Street in Quincy, Florida. The school's mascot was the Tiger and its colors were orange and black. The school originally was James A. Shanks High School but became a middle school in 2003. At its closing, the school administration was Principal Camry Floyd and Assistant Principals Shereka Hutley Williams and Pierre Lewis. It Served approximately 404 students in grades 4-8.

New School Construction 8/21/26



Safe Schools Raptor Technologies

By John Thomas, IT Network Coordinator and Lt. Tiffany Buckhalt, Safe Schools Coordinator

The District Safe Schools Office received notice from Intrado in Spring of 2026 advising that their services would no longer be available after December 2026. Upon receiving this notification, the Safety Coordinator, Lt. Tiffany Buckhalt began the process of returning to Raptor Technologies as the district's new FLDOE approved Alyssa's Alert system.

All technology implemented in the district is vetted and installed via the district's technology department. As the IT Network Coordinator, Mr. John Thomas is the district's project manager for the transition to Raptor Technologies. In order to ensure a smooth transition from Intrado/School Gate Guardian to Raptor Technologies, telephone and virtual meetings have occurred. The following transition activities have occurred:

- Single sign-ons for Raptor users have been established
- Visitor Safe Tablet licenses for each building have been acquired
- Rapture printers have been delivered to the district
- The district has received quotes for and is in the process of ordering the required scanner units and program iPads

The Emergency Management system will have all of the same features as Intrado, including the ability to communicate with local law enforcement: Raptor Alert and Drill Manager; Access to the web/app Raptor Alert to notify staff of emergencies and team assists; and Drill manager to help plan drill/initiate drills. The district is also considering Clever/RaptorLink integration to incorporate appropriate student and staff data. Training modules and information have been received and are being reviewed.

Raptor Technologies provides a one platform multiple dimension School Safety system.

Gadsden Technical College
By Dr. Willie A. Jackson, Director

Staffing: Only one position is unfilled (Academic Paraprofessional). Administrators: 5 of 5, Support Staff: 7 of 7, Instructional: 13 of 14.

GADSDEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE Continued . . .

Student Enrollment: Adult Education: 17, CTE Adults: 97, CTE Dual Enrollment: 21

Funding: Seven (7) of the eight (8) grant applications have been submitted. The Adults with Disabilities grant for Florida State Hospital request for application (RFA) has not been released.

Financial Aid (Pell and Open Door): The first round of financial aid disbursements for the year are scheduled for September 4th. One Hundred percent (100%) of students will receive a form of Pell grant or in-house scholarship.

Student Success: A team of four students enter the State FBA Dog House completion in July and placed third. The Nursing Class of 2026 graduated the largest class (15 nurses) in program history. The current Class of 2027 (22 nurses) is the largest in program history.

Youth Trades Career Fair & EXPO: GTC is partnering with the National Housing Endowment and hosting the Florida Youth Trades Career Fair & EXPO 2026 on October 17th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Admission is 100% free to the public.

Transportation Department By Matthew Bryant, Director

On August 10th the Transportation Department welcomed back the Drivers and Bus Attendants. We kicked off our welcome back day with a workshop covering the following information.

- Wheelchair Securement (Vector Safety Training) - Covers the differences among various types of wheelchairs and correct ways to secure them to the bus and the importance of using the four-point tie-down securement system to ensure the safety of wheelchair users during transportation.
- Child Abuse: Mandatory Reporting - This course equips school staff with essential knowledge to identify physical, behavioral, and communication indicators of maltreatment and abuse in students with disabilities while developing confidence in fulfilling mandatory reporting.
- Sexual Misconduct: Staff-to-Student - This course provides staff with information on how to provide an appropriate level of care for all students. This course explores the definition of sexual misconduct, the legal obligations of school staff members, signs of sexual misconduct, the legal obligations of school staff members, signs of sexual misconduct by staff members, and how to create clear professional boundaries that protect staff members as well as students.

Family and Community Engagement

By Cheryl Moody, Coordinator

Community Engagement

- Saturday, August 1, 2026 - Farmer Foundation Back-to-School Drive: The F.A.C.E. Office served as a collaborative partner in the Farmer Foundation Back-to-School Drive. Through this partnership, the Foundation provided book bags to 350 students and school supplies 100 teachers, helping students and educators prepare for a successful school year.
- Saturday, August 1, 2026 - Quincy Probation Officers Job Fair: The F.A.C.E. Office partnered with the Quincy Probation Officers for their Job Fair. The Gadsden County Schools Human Resources Office participated as a vendor, providing information about employment opportunities and resources available within the school district.
- Sunday, August 2, 2026 - St. Paul Episcopal Church Back-to-School Health Fair: The F.A.C.E. Office served as a collaborative partner with St. Paul Episcopal Church for its Back-to-School Health Fair. The event served approximately 200 families and connected attendees with valuable resources and services. Lou Armesto and St. Paul Episcopal Church also recognized last year's Teacher of the Year winners by presenting them with personalized totes filled with school supplies, gift cards, and other special treats.
- Jacobs Engineering and Operations Firm - School Supply Donation: Jacob, owner of Jacobs Engineering and Operations Firm, generously donated school supplies to the F.A.C.E. Office to support efforts to meet the needs of students returning to school. This contribution helped ensure students had access to essential supplies as they began the new school year.

Families in Transition Services

- On Tuesday, August 12, 2026, the FACE department members, both new and old, joined city and county partners in a ribbon cutting ceremony presenting one of our F.I.T. families with keys to their new home.
- F.A.C.E. has provided uniforms, laundry kits, hygiene kits, socks, shoes, belts, and other supplies to over 77 fit families, which are approximately 150 students, to start the 26-27 school year off. The families are grateful for our assistance in making the financial load lighter for them.
- The FACE department has been actively supporting the schools with the McKinney-Vento required presentation.
- The F.A.C.E. department continues its partnership with rapid rehousing in assisting families with utility deposits and moving in cost (for those who qualify). We have submitted more than 10 applications, having 4 meeting the requirements for services.

FACE Continued . . .

Home Education & Virtual Instruction Office

- We are continuing to enroll students in home education, to include Home Education Traditional, Flex, K12 and PAEC FLVS Franchise. So far this school term, upward 100 families visited and or emails the F.A.C.E office inquiring about home education. There have been, (44) letters of intent, (27) notice of terminations and (42) annual evaluation reported. There were also (4) Affidavits of completion and (5) Students Transitioned to Adult Education.
- We currently have 262 students enrolled in home education. There are 11 student enrolled in Gadsden K-12 education.

Technology Department

By Dr. Sheantika Wiggins, IT Director

The Technology Department continues to support districtwide technology infrastructure, instructional programs, testing, and data operations.

Technology & Infrastructure

- Continued imaging and deployment of Windows 11 devices. Student devices have been delivered to GCHS, HMS, and WGMS. Staff deployment will follow. District testing must be completed on a Windows 11 device or Chromebook.
- Upgraded wireless access at Chattahoochee Elementary School.
- Installed and configured Pre-K network connections at Stewart Street and QA3.
- Relocated GCA technology equipment to GCHS Building 4.
- Continuing to organize and inventory the technology warehouse following the Shanks move.

Projects & Instructional Support

- Met with DMS to review phone system options for the new K-8 school. DMS will present recommendations on September 9, 2026, in the Curriculum Library.
- Providing ongoing technology support for the new GTC Engineering class at GCHS.
- Student accounts have been rolled over and synchronized with Clever Single Sign-On (SSO) for digital resource access.

FOCUS, Testing & State Reporting

- Setting up the new Medication Module in FOCUS.
- Sending Pre-ID testing data.
- Completing Survey 5 submissions.
- Loading summer test scores.
- Processing Survey M (Staff).
- Processing Surveys F & G (WDIS).

Department Focus: Device deployment, reliable connectivity, instructional technology support, testing readiness, and accurate state reporting remain key priorities.

SUPPORTING THE HALF CENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE

WILL HELP KEEP OUR DISTRICT FACILITIES SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED



HMS



GCHS



CACS



WGMS



GBES



CES

Examples of What Checking **YES** Means for Our Schools

- Routine Maintenance of Heating and Air Systems
- Timely Replacement of HVAC Systems
- Better Maintained School and District Facilities
- Modern P.E. Facilities
- Modern Classroom Facilities
- Enhanced School Security and Safety
- Improved Classroom Technology
- Timely Renovations and Repairs



**GADSDEN COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**