



**GADSDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

**Home of the Mighty Jaguar Nation**

27001 Blue Star Memorial Highway, Havana, Florida 32333

Website: [www.gchs.gadsdenschools.org](http://www.gchs.gadsdenschools.org)

Phone: 850-662.2300 Fax: 850.627.2760

Mrs. Tamika Hughes-Leeks, Principal

**School Vision: GCHS empowers all students to succeed by pursuing early college, armed forces and technical opportunities by providing standards-aligned, engaging instruction.**

Date: August 09, 2024

To: Gadsden County High School Faculty and Staff

Re: Welcome Back

Greetings Gadsden County Jaguar Nation! I am delighted to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself as the new principal. I am ecstatic to be joining such a hardworking and dedicated staff and community. Congratulations, Jaguar Nation and the hardworking staff at GCHS on maintaining a school grade of "C!" That level of success is because of each of you. Our students excelled under your tutelage, resulting in nearly 80% of all seniors completing their high school graduation requirements and many successes at each grade level. This year, we will build upon your many great works and elevate to the next level. My theme for the year is clear, **"Let's R.O.A.R. our way to an A!"** It will take each and everyone united and focused on the challenges ahead.

Please allow me to share a bit about myself. I am Tamika Hughes-Leeks and I am passionate about elevating scholars and schools in excellence. Transitioning to Gadsden County High School, I am continuing a long and fruitful legacy in education. I have served in Pinellas County Schools at the secondary level for more than twenty-three years and have led as a school principal since 2015. I honed my skills in supporting challenging students as a classroom room teacher, as a MTSS Staff Developer and as a Graduation Coach at multiple sites in the district. I served as an Assistant Principal at the middle and high school levels before completing my Principal Internship. I am the founding principal of Disston Academy and Pinellas Teleschool and have served this school community for ten years. Each of these experiences have provided me with invaluable insights into the diverse needs of scholars, parents, and educators.

My educational background includes a Bachelors of Science degree in Education from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from St. Leo University, and an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instructional Management and Administration at Nova Southeastern University. I have extensive support and endorsement as a graduate of the SREB and FLDOE Turnaround Leadership Programs, the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Turnaround Leaders Institute and the National Center on Education and the Economy NISL program to name a few.

I wish you the most amazing start to an fantastic school year. I will report to Gadsden County High School next week but will maintain open communication in transition. Please email Ms. Taylor regarding any pressing questions or concerns that need my immediate attention prior to my arrival.

Elevating the ROAR,

*Tamika D. Hughes-Leeks*

Tamika D. Hughes-Leeks, Principal

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