



ACADEMIC SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

**Gadsden County School District
2026–2027 Teacher of the Year**

We proudly honor Mrs. Gwendolyn Forehand, kindergarten teacher at George W. Munroe Elementary School, as the Gadsden County School District 2026–2027 Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Forehand is a passionate and resourceful kindergarten teacher whose commitment to education and community has made a lasting impact at George W. Munroe Elementary School. As a mother of two daughters and one son, and a proud grandmother to six grandchildren, Mrs. Forehand’s nurturing spirit extends well beyond her classroom. She is married to Rev. Gregory Forehand, and together they have built a strong foundation rooted in family, faith, and service for the past 38 years.

Mrs. Forehand began her journey in education in 1989, stepping into the classroom as a substitute teacher. Her early experiences ignited a deep love for teaching and inspired her to pursue a formal degree in education. Balancing family responsibilities and academic pursuits, she returned to school with determination and resilience. Upon graduation, she joined the faculty at George W. Munroe, where she has since distinguished herself as a creative, dedicated, and resourceful educator.

Known for her hardworking nature and unwavering dedication, Mrs. Forehand approaches teaching with enthusiasm and innovation. She believes that every child deserves a supportive and engaging learning environment, and she works tirelessly to foster curiosity, creativity, and confidence in her students. Her colleagues recognize her as a team player who collaborates effectively, shares ideas generously, and contributes to a positive school culture.



One of her favorite past-times is sewing. Mrs. Forehand’s love for sewing is more than a hobby—it is a vibrant part of her teaching practice. She regularly incorporates her original creations into school activities, enriching classroom experiences and school events with handmade costumes, decorations, and learning materials. Her creative touch brings joy and excitement to students and staff alike, making each school day memorable.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Forehand has demonstrated a remarkable ability to balance professional excellence with personal warmth. Her dedication to her students, her desire to go above and beyond, and her commitment to teamwork have earned her the respect and admiration of the entire school community. As a mother, grandmother, and wife, she embodies the values of compassion, perseverance, and integrity.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Forehand stands as a shining example of what it means to be an educator, a leader, and a creative force within her community. Her journey from substitute teaching to becoming a beloved kindergarten teacher at George W. Munroe is a testament to her determination and passion. Through her hard work, creativity, and collaborative spirit, she continues to inspire those around her. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

March 13: End of 3rd Grading Period/Half Day
 March 16-20: Spring Break (District-wide)

Elijah Key, Superintendent
 Lisa Robinson, Asst. Superintendent,
 Academic Services

Empowering Leaders, Elevating Outcomes

The Principals' Meeting held on February 12th proved to be both engaging and highly impactful, offering school leaders meaningful opportunities to deepen their understanding of data driven decision making. Principals were actively engaged throughout the meeting as they participated in two dynamic and informative presentations designed to support instructional leadership and student success.

The first presentation, delivered by our i-Ready representatives, provided valuable insights into leveraging assessment data to inform instruction. Principals were highly engaged as they explored tools and strategies that can be applied to strengthen teaching and learning across their campuses.

The second presentation, led by Mrs. Carmen Conner, Principal of Pineview Elementary School, offered an enhanced and practical look at effective data disaggregation. Mrs. Conner expertly shared how her school tracks student performance, monitors progress, and uses data as a driving force behind instructional decisions and campus wide initiatives. Her presentation resonated strongly with attendees, offering real world examples of how intentional data use can lead to meaningful outcomes for students.

Throughout both sessions, principals demonstrated a high level of engagement, asking thoughtful questions, sharing ideas, and reflecting on practices they could implement at their own schools. The meeting served as a powerful reminder of the importance of data informed leadership and the collective commitment to continuous improvement across the district.



Empowering Civics Teachers to Bring Learning to Life

On February 9th, Civics teachers from across the district participated in a professional learning experience focused on strengthening Civics instruction and enhancing classroom implementation. Teachers engaged in collaborative learning, explored instructional strategies aligned to the Civics standards, and worked directly with their Teacher Editions to support lesson planning and student engagement. The training provided meaningful opportunities for discussion, reflection, and shared best practices, all aimed at deepening student understanding of civic responsibility and government concepts.

Head Start/PreK Launches Strong Registration Season

The Gadsden County Head Start/PreK Program kicked off the month of February with a successful 2026–2027 Pop-Up Registration event held February 2–4 at the PreK Office. During this three-day event, the team proudly welcomed 50 new students who are now registered for the upcoming school year.

With a total Head Start grant enrollment of 227 students, the program continues to serve families across the district with high-quality early childhood education. Excitingly, 98 three-year-old students will transition into the four-year-old program next school year, reflecting strong retention and continued family engagement.

To ensure families have a smooth enrollment process, parents and guardians complete a comprehensive application that includes required health and eligibility documentation such as physical exams (including lead testing), immunization records, proof of income, identification, medical insurance information, dental exams, and birth certificates. The PreK team remains committed to guiding families through each step of the process.

In an effort to make registration more accessible, the program has expanded support services by offering on-site registration and VPK voucher assistance at all elementary schools throughout the month. On February 21, the department partnered with Dr. Cameron Browning of Browning Medical and Wellness Center in Havana to provide additional registration assistance and share information about upcoming enrollment opportunities, further strengthening community partnerships in support of young learners.

Families who were unable to attend the February event will have another opportunity during the next Pop-Up Registration scheduled for March 2–4, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the PreK Office.

The Gadsden County Head Start/PreK Program remains dedicated to ensuring every child enters kindergarten ready to learn, grow, and succeed.

OPLS Spotlight Supporting Educators, Strengthening Instruction

The 2nd Semester Tour of Schools Visits will conclude February 27, 2026. The OPLS office has been able to meet with educators to assist them in obtaining certification requirements. OPLS School Focus Visits are over, and our office has been using this data to plan sessions for the upcoming 2026 Gadsden Education Summit, which will take place July 13-16, 2026.

On February 11, 2026, Ms. Chelsea Murphy facilitated an in-person Reading Competency 3 session with the Gadsden Reading Cohort. Participants explored the science of reading, assessment and data-driven decision-making, differentiated instruction, and strategies to support diverse learners across content areas. Through interactive sessions, practical application, and reflective practice, cohort members will strengthen their ability to diagnose reading needs, plan targeted instruction, and improve literacy outcomes for all students.

Gadsden New Teacher Academy participated in a session on February 13, 2026, titled "Making It Count Before Spring Break, Preparing for the last Nine-Weeks" with Mrs. LaTasha Pride, Facilitator. As we prepare for the final nine weeks, Ms. Pride emphasized the importance of assessments, data management, classroom maintenance and inventory, and maintaining student engagement. This professional learning was practical and reflective.

Program Specialist have visited Chattahoochee Elementary School, West Gadsden Middle School, Stewart Street Elementary School, George Munroe Elementary School, and Gadsden High School providing PLC planning support, classroom walkthrough support, data support, instructional delivery support, and student support.

Upcoming Professional Learnings:

- * February 21, 2026: Planning with the B.E.S.E. in Mind-Part 2 (Annotation Strategies to Improve Student Understanding, Student Engagement Strategies, and High-Quality Instructional Practices)
- * March 28, 2026: Planning with the B.E.S.T. in Mind-Part 3 (UDL: Science of Reading, Technology & AI Usage in the Classroom, and Identifying and Applying Evidence-Based Practices)

Inspiring Pathways for Every Student



The Gadsden County School Counseling Department continues to serve as a vital support system for our students, families, and communities. Our school counselors work tirelessly to ensure that every student is equipped academically, socially, and emotionally to reach their fullest potential. Through individual counseling, small group sessions, classroom guidance, and college and career readiness initiatives, counselors help create safe, supportive, and student-centered learning environments across the district.

This year, our counselors have remained committed to promoting the whole child. From assisting students with academic planning and scholarship applications to supporting social-emotional learning and crisis response, counselors collaborate with teachers, administrators, and families to remove barriers to achievement and ensure all students have access to opportunities that prepare them for college, careers, and lifelong success.

At Gadsden County High School, we are excited to highlight two upcoming college and career readiness events that will further expand opportunities for our students:

Florida A&M University (FAMU) Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th, with the program presentation beginning at 9:15 a.m. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about admissions, academic programs, scholarships, and campus life while connecting with the proud tradition of the Rattlers.

Representatives from Tallahassee State College will visit Gadsden County High School on Friday, February 27, 2026. During this visit, students will dive deeper into academic programs, connect with faculty, and gain a firsthand perspective of student life and postsecondary pathways as they learn more about the Eagles community.

These events reflect our ongoing commitment to expanding access to higher education and exposing students to diverse postsecondary options. We are proud of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated daily by our school counseling team. Their unwavering commitment to equity, advocacy, and student growth reflects the mission and vision of Gadsden County Schools.

Thank you to our School Counselors for all that you do to empower students to thrive today and lead tomorrow!

Engage • Support • Empower Exceptional Student Education

The Exceptional Student Education, Student Services and Mental Health Department is excited to announce several impactful initiatives this spring that reflect our continued commitment to students, families and schools across the district.

On March 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., we will host our Family Café Event at Carter Parramore Academy, creating an interactive and welcoming space designed to strengthen partnerships with families. This engaging event will offer meaningful opportunities for connection, open dialogue and shared learning around student support, available resources and best practices. Families can expect purposeful conversations, practical tools, and a supportive environment that centers collaboration and empowerment.

In addition to supporting families, our department is proud to participate in Gadsden's Torch Run on April 13, 2026, demonstrating our continued commitment to inclusion, advocacy and community engagement alongside local partners.

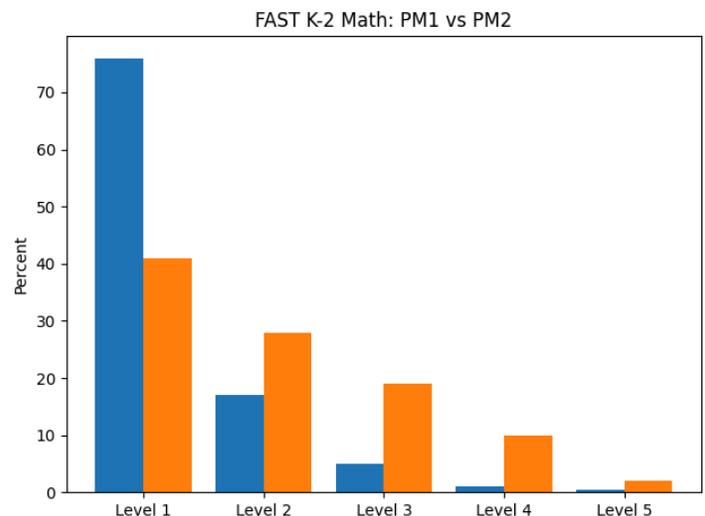
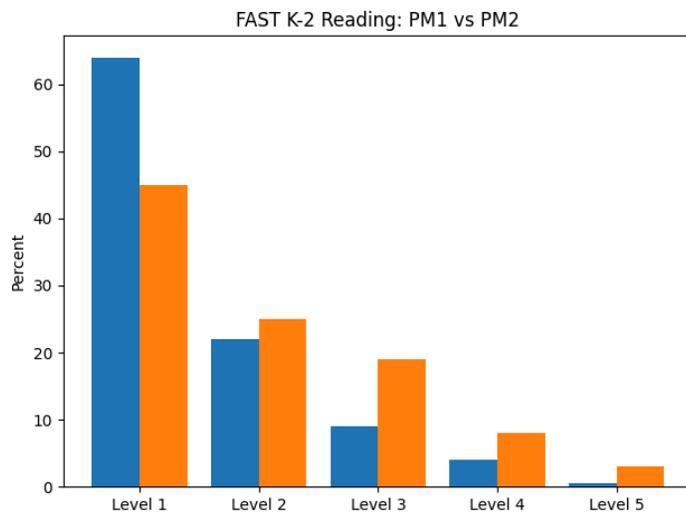
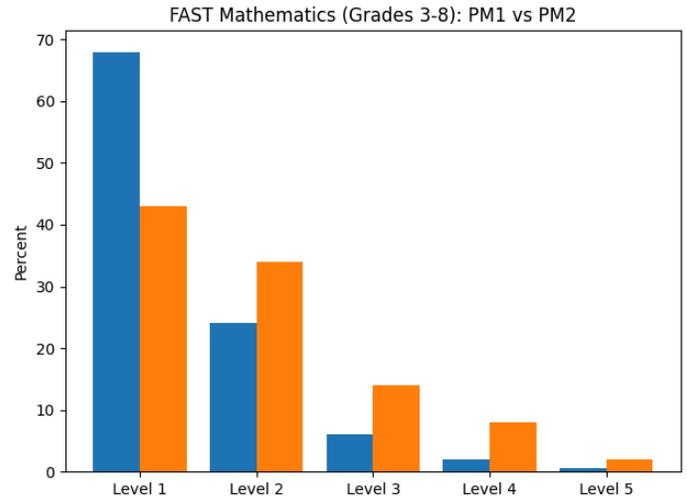
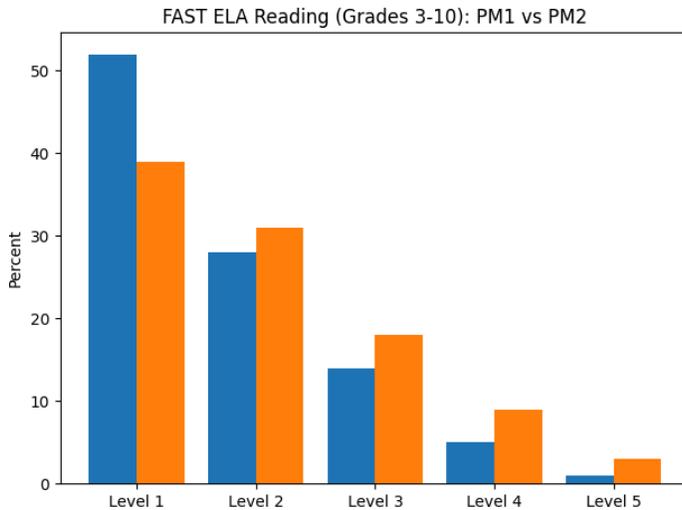
Throughout the spring, our teams will also continue providing hands-on, on site support to schools with a focus on effective instructional strategies and proactive behavior supports. By working directly with school based teams, we aim to build capacity, promote positive learning environments and ensure students receive high-quality, responsive instruction and behavioral support.

Together, these efforts reflect our mission to support the whole child, empower families, strengthen educators and engage our community.



**Districtwide Academic Growth:
FAST PM1 to PM2 Results**

District Growth Summary



PM1 to PM2 results reflect strong districtwide academic movement. ELA (3–10) reduced Level 1 by 13 points and doubled Levels 4–5. Mathematics (3–8) reduced Level 1 by 25 points with proficiency rising from 8.5% to 24%. K–2 Reading reduced Level 1 by 19 points while doubling Level 3 performance. K–2 Math showed the most dramatic growth with a 35-point decrease in Level 1 and substantial gains across Levels 2–4. Students are steadily exiting the lowest performance band and progressing toward proficiency. Instructional supports, PLC planning, and targeted interventions are producing measurable growth as we move toward PM3.

“Behind every data point is a student, and behind every gain is purposeful instruction”

#Graduation