

MAY  
2025



GLADEWATER  
ISD

# BEAR NATION

## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



*Congratulations  
Class of 2025*



## ***SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS***

Breakfast: 7:30am - 8am    Lunch: 11am - 1pm

At GHS: June 10-27 (closed ea. Monday)

At Weldon: July 15-25 (closed ea. Monday)

# A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Bear Nation Families,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 school year, I'm proud to share the great progress we've made across the district this year. Our commitment to student success is stronger than ever, and our focus remains on ensuring that every campus, every classroom, and every learner is supported, challenged, and celebrated moving forward into the 2025-2026 year.

## **Continuous Improvement Across All Programs**

We are actively enhancing all academic and extracurricular programs to better meet the needs of our students. Whether it's expanding access to Career and Technical Education (CTE), strengthening early literacy and math instruction, or providing more diverse opportunities in the arts and athletics, our district is evolving to offer a well-rounded education for every student.

## **Curriculum Implementation**

One of our biggest steps forward this year has been the adoption and implementation of an updated curriculum framework across multiple content areas. These new resources are aligned with state standards and designed to promote deeper learning, critical thinking, and real-world application. Teachers and instructional specialists will receive professional development and will work collaboratively to deliver instruction that is both engaging and impactful.

## **Supporting Educators and Leaders**

We continue to prioritize the growth and development of our educators. Through ongoing coaching, job-embedded training, and leadership support, we are equipping our teachers, instructional specialists, principals, assistant principals, directors, and central office staff with the tools and strategies they need to be effective. Our partnership with Region 7 Education Service Center has been instrumental in this work, providing high-quality support and capacity-building for all levels of leadership.

## **Accountability and Campus Improvement**

While we are proud of many achievements across the district, we also recognize there is work to be done. Some of our campuses did not meet state accountability standards in years past, and we are addressing this head-on. Each of these campuses is receiving targeted support and will implement focused improvement plans designed to raise student outcomes and close achievement gaps. These plans include data-driven instruction, increased coaching, leadership mentoring, and family engagement strategies. Our goal is not just to meet expectations—but to exceed them.

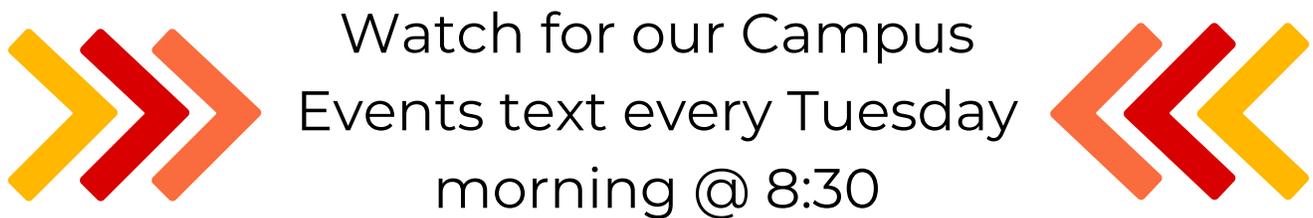
## **Budget Planning and Legislative Updates**

We are carefully monitoring the ongoing legislative session, which will have a direct impact on school funding. As we await final decisions, we are proactively preparing budget plans that prioritize student achievement, staff support, and operational efficiency. We remain committed to transparency and wise stewardship of our resources.

## **Looking Ahead**

There is so much to be proud of—and much more to accomplish. Our progress is a direct result of the dedication, hard work, and heart that our staff, students, and families bring every day. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. We are building something special in Bear Nation, and I'm excited about the road ahead.

With Bear Nation pride,  
Rae Ann Patty  
Superintendent



Once school begins, if you are not getting our text message about the weekly Campus Events, contact your child's campus to make sure the correct info is on file. If you "OPT Out" you could be missing important information.



## Summer Camps

3rd Gr. - Incoming 9th Gr.

### SUMMER SPORTS CAMP SCHEDULE



All GHS camps are \$25 each  
Payment can be made via Venmo or Cash  
@GladewaterBearBoosters  
MORE INFO TO COME.....

- MAY 24** Kollin Lewis Football Camp  
10am-12pm- FREE
- JUN 2-3** Tennis  
8am-10am
- JUN 2-3** Boys Basketball  
5:30pm-7:30pm
- JUN 4-5** Girls Basketball  
12pm-2pm
- JUN 5-6** Softball  
8am-10am
- JUN 7** Kamyryn Floyd's Speed Camp  
10:30am-12:30pm- FREE
- JUL 30-31** Football  
TBD
- TBD** Baseball, Volleyball, and Soccer

## Save the Dates

### GHS Summer School

June 10 - 27 8am - 12 pm

Course Offerings: Alg I EOC retest prep, Eng I EOC retest Prep, Biology EOC retest prep, US History EOC retest prep, and Credit Recovery.

### GMS & WES Summer School

#### "SMART START"

(To be held at GMS)

July 15-18 and July 22-25

### SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS

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### First Day of School

August 5, 2025



# Gladewater Primary

## Wee Bears



GPS has had loads of fun with the community and kids. Our family academic night was a hit.



We are thankful to Mr. Winn for piloting his helicopter for the Easter egg drop.





**GO  
CUBS!**

# Gladewater Middle School

**A Busy and Successful Finish to the School Year 🎉**

**The final nine weeks of the school year have been nothing short of action-packed at Gladewater Middle School, filled with achievement, celebration, and community engagement!**

**Our outstanding students shone brightly at the UIL Academic Rodeo, bringing home medals and recognition for their hard work and dedication.**

**Meanwhile, our Varsity Band made us proud by participating in the UIL Contest in April, showcasing their talent and months of preparation.**

**We also celebrated an incredible accomplishment in our Ag program—three of our eighth-grade students were part of the Livestock Judging Team that advanced to the state contest and performed exceptionally well. A huge round of applause to them!**

**Art students added vibrant color to the season by participating in the district Art Walk at Gladewater High School, displaying creativity and skill.**

**We also took time to focus on digital well-being with a Parent and Family Engagement Night centered on internet safety, bringing together families and staff for meaningful conversation and resources.**

**In a show of school spirit and unity, GMS gathered to cheer on the GHS Girls State Track Team as they departed for state—where they clinched first place! What an inspiration to our future athletes.**

**As we navigated through state standardized testing, our students and teachers remained resilient. To express our gratitude, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in a big way. Thanks to the generosity of our amazing PTO and National Junior Honor Society, our educators were treated to delicious meals, snacks, treats, and a special breakfast.**

**We're wrapping up the school year on a high note with grade-level awards ceremonies, Incentive Day, and the much-anticipated Fun Fest, giving students a well-deserved chance to celebrate their accomplishments.**

**It's been a remarkable year at GMS. Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community partners for making it a successful one. Here's to an even brighter year ahead!**





Ms. Slusser is awarded a grant from the Education Foundation



National Junior Honor Society students feed GMS teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week



AG students recognized



Robotics students recognized

Great work!

# WELDON ELEMENTARY



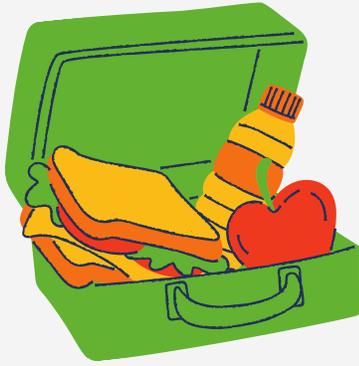
Beginning months ago, the WES 5th grade robotics students divided in teams and created team roles for each member. Some are builders, coders, problem solvers, communicators and a team captain who must be cool under pressure. The winning team utilized teamwork from each of these positions to be successful!

They built their robots and at a recent competition successfully coded and performed 7 tasks in 90 seconds, scoring 140 points in one run! The tasks are things like following a line using a color sensor, ringing a bell, loading chickens into the truck, spinning to simulate a tornado, crossing a broken bridge and pushing sand bags and blocks to prevent flooding.

Team harmony is important because they work together very closely and need to communicate clearly all the steps and processes. These 10 and 11 year old kids communicated things like starting positions and task numbers while the team captain performed with precision and speed. Months of hard work concluded in a 1st place trophy, our first ever.

TOGETHER, WE RISE





# Child Nutrition

By Darla Allen



## The “Golden Girls” of Gladewater Middle School

An introduction to who we are and what we love to do for our students whom we treat like our very own. We also take teacher/ staff input and try to accommodate them if possible. The “Golden Girls” of GMS. We got the name after Misty, a lunch lady, thought it was appropriate. Our personalities resemble the sarcastic, witty, fun-loving, but most importantly, we love our students here. Mary, the decorator enjoys to make our kitchen look so pretty and very festive for the holidays. We know the students enjoy seeing the kitchen decorated and have asked several times if they can take some decorations home. To make the students day, she has gifted several students in different occasions with a token/piece of her decorations. We go above and beyond to brighten a student’s day. Paula, is always so happy and enjoys to laugh. She goes above and beyond organizing the freezer on delivery days. Stacy is the newest “Golden Girl” at GMS and has learned so much. She is in charge of her frozen veggies in the freezer and keeps it nice.

This school year we have implemented a “Share Box”. This is something our students look forward to each day to either grab an additional unopened item or add something to the “Share Box” that hasn’t been opened so a classmate can enjoy and it encourages them to take advantage of this instead of dumping in the trash can the unused food items. Finally, something that a few teachers/ staff suggested was for us to provide them with a “Good Salad” and they would come and buy them.

Since the school year is almost done, I thought about giving this salad idea a try. However, I had nothing to lose and decided let me give it a trial run the remaining of the school year and see how we can improve for next school year. In just two weeks of making salads for the staff to purchase, I've had between 2-5 sold daily. I'd like to see ten salads being sold on a daily basis. I'm looking forward to next school year and provide other produce items to our Salad Bar. Surprisingly the students love their vegetables and enjoy seeing a variety of color in the Salad Bar.

My name is Bea, I am the cafe manager and enjoy doing what I do. I also make sure our café ladies provide excellence to our friends (students) and staff. I refer to our students as friends and they have gotten used to me calling them friends and now they call me friend.



Middle School Cafeteria Staff

# ***GHS*** Happenings

Walking the halls where it all began...



**Gay Ave. Primary**

The talented GHS HoneyBears just donated 2026 filled plastic Easter eggs to be used for the helicopter drop on Friday, April 18 at 2P.M. Children between the ages of 1-10 are invited to meet on the Broadway playground and watch over 10,000 eggs as they drift thru air. Don't forget your basket!



Great job Big Bear Band on donating 1,000 eggs to the Chamber of Commerce community egg hunt!

Can you say Sweepstakes Band. I can! Three years in a row the GHS band has captured this prestigious title and earned 1s all year long!

#WECANBETHESTANDARD  
#WECAN #GOBEARS



The livestock team had a great day judging in Weatherford on Tuesday placing 30th out of over 90 teams. Today we are ready to judge in Waco at the Heart o Texas Fair along with the MQP team. Best of luck guys!

So something happened today. One Act Play advances to the Bi-District competition! Congratulations to all the members and Mrs. Smith!  
#WECANBETHESTANDARD  
#WECAN #GOBEARS



## Choir Students Participate At TSSEC

Logan McKnight (Senior) - 1st Division-Gold medal.  
Illyssa Hawley (Senior) - 2nd Division-Silver medal  
Samyra Williams (Senior)-2nd Division -Silver medal  
Rilynn Duren (Junior) - 2nd Division-Silver medal  
Emma Williams (Junior) - 2nd Division-Silver medal  
Mackenzie Richardson (Freshman) - 2nd Division-Silver medal

## CTE Spotlights for GHS!!!

These BEARS have shown what can be accomplished with determination and dedication! Congratulations!!

#WECANBETHESTANDARD #WECAN #GOBEARS

(Emma Williams designed CTE Student Spotlight banners for Gladewater High School Seniors. Emma is a junior at Gladewater High School and a dedicated graphic design student with three years of experience. She has earned her Adobe Photoshop Certification and is set to complete her Adobe Illustrator Certification this year. In addition to her passion for design, Emma is a member of the Honeybear drill team. Known for her creativity and attention to detail, she plans to continue her education at Stephen F. Austin State University, where she will major in Graphic Design.)

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Pamela Fagans*  
CERTIFICATE: EDUCATIONAL AIDE  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: EDUCATION & TRAINING

SENIOR *Taylor Herrad*  
CERTIFICATE: AWS CERTIFIED WELDER  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: WELDING

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Randi Vasques*  
CERTIFICATE: ELANCO FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: ANIMAL SCIENCE

SENIOR *Nicholas Allen*  
CERTIFICATE: PHOTOSHOP ILLUSTRATOR  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: GRAPHIC DESIGN

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Neveah Flanagan*  
CERTIFICATE: EDUCATIONAL AIDE  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: EDUCATION & TRAINING

SENIOR *Lily Lorenzo*  
CERTIFICATE: PHOTOSHOP  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: GRAPHIC DESIGN

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Jasmine Fisher*  
CERTIFICATE: PATIENT CARE TECH  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: HEALTH SCIENCE

SENIOR *Emmalee Eddington*  
CERTIFICATE: PATIENT CARE TECH  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: HEALTH SCIENCE

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Karlee Moses*  
CERTIFICATE: ELANCO FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: ANIMAL SCIENCE

SENIOR *Jaxxon Cook*  
CERTIFICATE: AWS CERTIFIED WELDER  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: WELDING

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Connor Benard*  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: YEARBOOK

SENIOR *Cory Stanley*  
CERTIFICATE: AWS CERTIFIED WELDER  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: WELDING

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Chris Paredes*  
CERTIFICATE: AWS CERTIFIED WELDER  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: WELDING

SENIOR *Autumn Zehrke*  
CERTIFICATE: PHOTOSHOP ILLUSTRATOR  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: GRAPHIC DESIGN

**GTE** STUDENT SPOTLIGHT  
CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

SENIOR *Brianna Wheeler*  
CERTIFICATE: ELANCO FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL SCIENCE  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: ANIMAL SCIENCE

SENIOR *Rachel Shepherd*  
CERTIFICATE: PATIENT CARE TECH  
PROGRAM OF STUDY: HEALTH SCIENCE

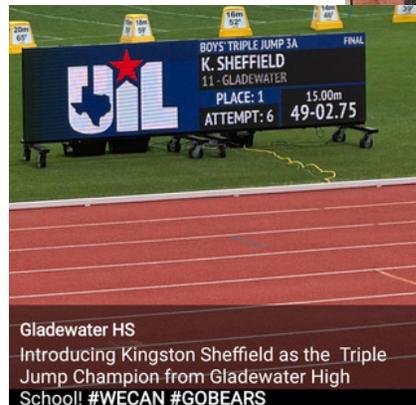
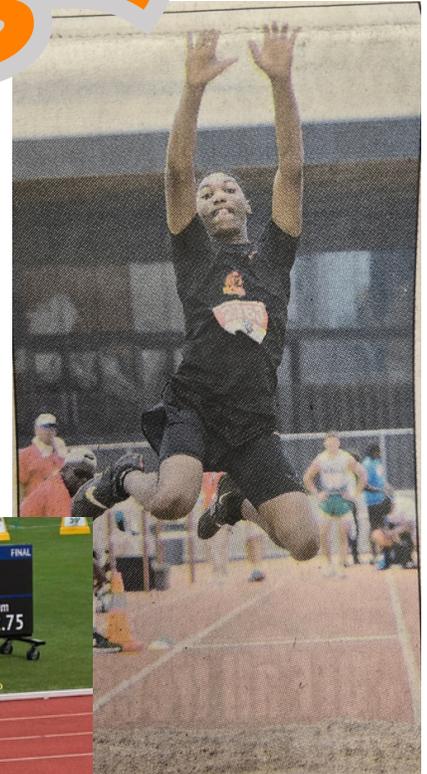


#WECAN #GOBEARS

# STATE Champions



The 4x100 Relay Team



TRIPLE JUMP



# Transportation News

by Hunter Hopkins  
Director of Transportation



Parents/Guardians of Gladewater ISD Students:

I want to share my deepest gratitude for you and your students. Gladewater ISD Transportation Department has had an exceptional school year, and we have enjoyed the time spent transporting your students each day. With the school coming to an end, I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few changes that will be implemented for next school year, and remind you of current policies that will still be enforced.

1. The Transportation Department will be relocating to 729 Virginia Drive. This will be in the same parking lot that we have been in for years, just a different building.
2. Students will NOT be issued a new bus card for the 2025-2026 school year. I strongly encourage you to collect the cards from your students and put them in a safe place. The card that was used for this year will be the same card they use next year. In the event that a card is lost, broken, or misplaced, you will be responsible for paying the \$5 fee for a new card.
3. ALL students will need to be registered to ride the bus for the 2025-2026 school year. This will take place during back to school registration. There will be a “cut off” during registration. After the “cut off” date, students who have not registered for the bus will not receive transportation services for the first week of school. This will help minimize confusion at the campus, and allow for the transportation department to create and share accurate information for bus riders. We will provide the date closer to registration.
4. Students are only allowed 1 pick up location and 1 drop off location, at district approved locations (home, grandparents, or licensed daycares within Gladewater ISD boundaries). Students are not permitted to ride home with friends, or to their parent’s place of employment.

We hope you have a very happy and safe summer break! Enjoy time with your family and friends, and we’ll see you in August!

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (903-845-4356).

Kindly,

Hunter Hopkins



# TECHNOLOGY

by Avon Bateman

What a busy year it's been for the tech department at Gladewater ISD. We've migrated everyone over to their new Macs and for the first time we've been able to sell the old computers back to their previous user. Our plate is full this summer of Chromebook repairs and upgrades. I'd like to thank Josh, Kevin, and Vanessa for all their hard work this year. They are the Velcro© that keeps technology running for everyone, I'm the lucky one who gets to be a part of it all. We hope you all have a great summer and are looking forward to a new school year.

Go Bears!!!

# Have a Great Summer!

