

## RESOLUTION HONORING GULF SHORES CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM AS A 2023 NOMINEE FOR ALABAMA GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

**WHEREAS**, the Alabama State Board of Education recognizes the importance of saving energy, reducing costs, creating environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protecting health, and fostering wellness for Alabama students and educators; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Education annually recognizes those schools, school districts, and institutes of higher education in the nation that are striving to achieve an energy-efficient and healthy school environment with the Green Ribbon School Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System is awarded the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for its commitment to improving its overall environmental impact, energy efficiency, and environmental education efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System has put significant effort into reducing its energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception, the Gulf Shores City School System has focused all efforts on renovations that incorporate top energy efficient practices; and

**WHEREAS**, this school system conserves water by using bottle filling stations and captures water runoff at all campuses in rain barrels (cisterns) to hydrate flowers and plants; and

**WHEREAS**, the school system utilizes professional landscaping techniques to preserve and manage topsoil to promote positive land water runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf Shores City School System also has built hydroponic tower gardens to recapture and recirculate water to all of its flowers and plants; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System is dedicated to reducing its environmental footprint through a special recycling program initiated through 21st Century Grant awards to its elementary and middle schools and the Gulf Coast RCD Grant awarded to its high school; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System is dedicated to reducing its eco-footprint using composting education to promote the benefits of outdoor classroom gardens to significantly lower the misuse of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System sponsors monthly bike-to-school days with a principal day, and bikes for field trips and travel between and among the school campuses through bike trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the community works in coordination with the building administrators and the Child Nutrition Program supervisor on the superintendent's Nutrition and Wellness committee to develop the "Eat a Rainbow" initiative encouraging students to eat colorful foods and healthy snacks, and the Farm to Table program where the greenhouses, hydroponics labs, and garden classes are utilized to grow salad-ready vegetables for use in the culinary classes and cafeteria; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System has placed emphasis on Sustainability in Education through the Science by the Shore Curriculum Initiative that incorporates Alabama Science Course of Study and Literacy Standards, its Design Thinking Across the Curriculum with a focus on sustainability, and its Sand Dune restoration project; and

**WHEREAS**, the students at the Gulf Shores City School System participate in STEAM Education, from pre-kindergarten to high school through specialized courses in robotics, coding, designing plankton identification nets, building Dutch Bucket Systems; and

**WHEREAS**, this school system has also established a successful best practice Aviation Lab for students; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Gulf Shores City School Summer Camp* partners with State Park and Ecotourism initiatives to provide a fun experience for families each year, which includes guided trail tours, kayaking, bicycling, and information on local plants; and

**WHEREAS**, Green Career Pathways are modeled through several High School Green Career Academies including Aquaponics, Marine Science, and Gulf Coast Ecology through partnerships with Environmental Engineers from South Alabama and Volkert; and

**WHEREAS**, the school system's career academy coordinates a phenomenally successful fitness promotion project between its Health Science, Naval Junior ROTC, Middle School Physical Education, Sports Medicine, and Public Safety programs; and

**WHEREAS**, physical fitness is also emphasized by student participation in the *Happy Feet* running initiative, *Healthy Eating, Active Living* or HEAL, and the incorporation of standing desk options for all faculty and students; and

**WHEREAS**, Gulf Shores City School System is committed to connecting students to our state's natural resource management and sustainable efforts:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend Gulf Shores City School for its commitment to environmental education and does hereby express its sincere congratulations.

Done this 11th day of May 2023