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PRESS RELEASE

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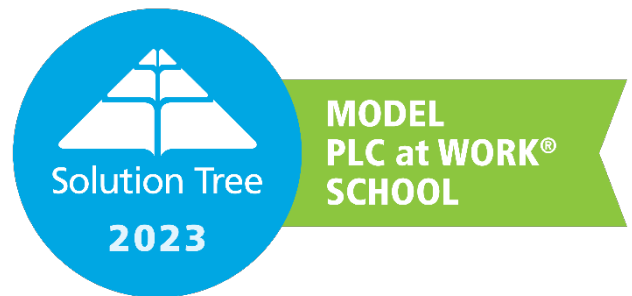
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Shirley Hills Elementary School Recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work® School

One of About 500 Schools and Districts in the US and Canada to Receive This Honor

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Shirley Hills Elementary School was recently recognized by Solution Tree for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work® process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students. Bonaire Elementary, Bonaire Primary, Eagle Springs Elementary and Houston County High have previously earned this designation. The Houston County School District was also named a Model Professional Learning Community at Work District in 2023.



PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

"I take great pride and appreciation in the groundwork laid by our previous leaders as they initiated our PLC journey. I am thankful to our dedicated faculty, staff, and students who embraced and committed to the PLC at Work processes," said Kristen Brooks, Principal of Shirley Hills Elementary School. "Continuing this legacy, I am proud of the collective dedication to continuous improvement, collaboration, and a student-centered approach that has resulted in our recognition."

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Schools are recognized based on strict criteria, including demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years, and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures, and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

Ms. Brooks added, “This recognition is not just about the title; it’s a celebration of the journey we’ve undertaken together to cultivate a culture of excellence and empower every student to reach their full potential.”

According to the Champions of PLC at Work[®], educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown “a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

Recognized model PLC schools are listed on <https://www.allthingsplc.info>, where they share implementation strategies, structures, and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts, and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 20 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K–12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.

Shirley Hills is located at 300 Mary Lane in Warner Robins. For more information about the school, visit <https://shes.hcbe.net/>.

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