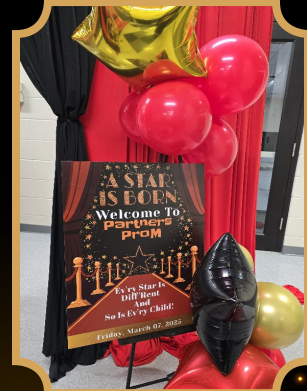




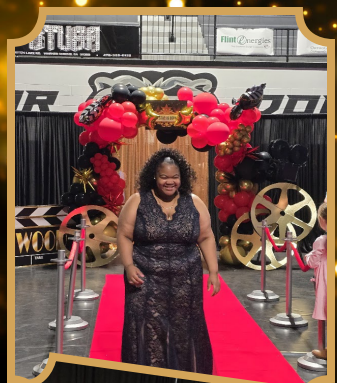
# Student Services Board Report



## PARTNER'S PROM *A Star is Born*



On March 7, 2025, the Houston County School District held its annual Partner's Prom. This year's theme, "A Star is Born," was a true reflection of the evening, as every student in attendance shined and sparkled like the beautiful stars they are. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this night unforgettable. Our students had an incredible night to remember!





# Houston County Sharks State Champions



March 8, 2025, the Houston County Sharks secured their 39th state championship at the GHSA State Basketball Tournament at the Macon Coliseum. After trailing at halftime, the Sharks rallied to defeat the Clayton County Eagles 37-34. Notable standouts include Anthony Cuti of Houston County High, Dalton Crosby of Warner Robins High, and Caden Nelson of Northside High, who both led the Sharks offensively and defensively. A huge thank you to all the fans who came out to support the program. Go Sharks!



# Celebrating *Occupational Therapy* Month

April is Occupational Therapy Month! Occupational therapy is a service that helps individuals of all ages learn to perform necessary tasks through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). School-based occupational therapists support a student's ability to engage in daily school activities including both academic and non-academic tasks. In the school setting, occupational therapy is provided when a student requires skilled therapy to fully participate in the educational environment. Occupational therapists collaborate with teachers, staff, and the broader educational team to support student success.



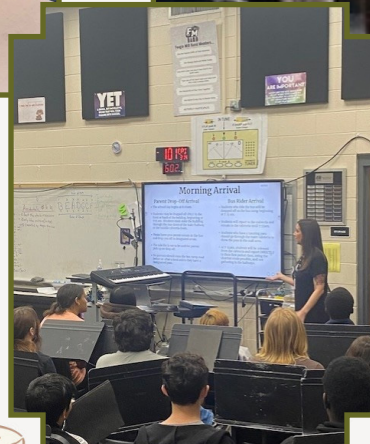
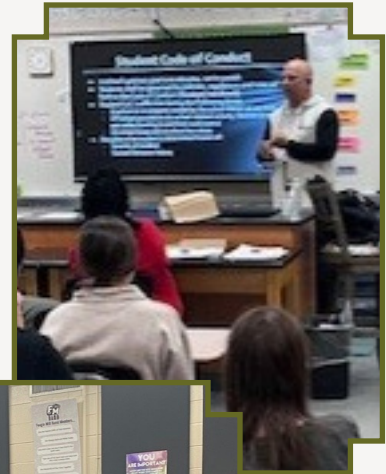
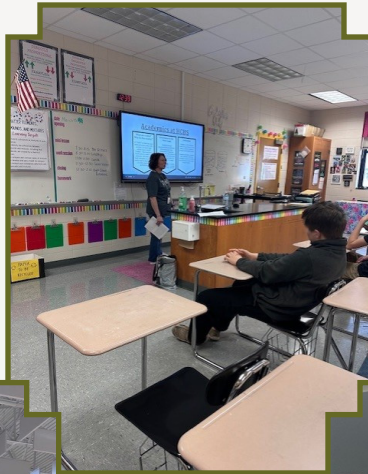
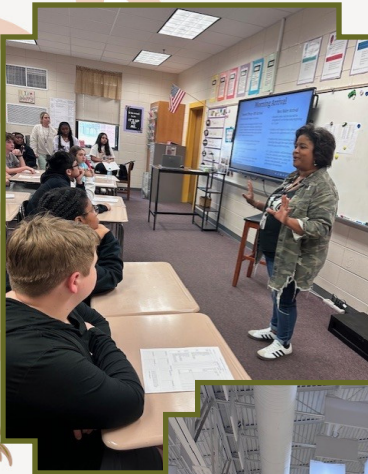
The Houston County School District's Occupational Therapy Department team members include: Leigh Ann Allen, Ansley Bailey, Danetta Hardy, Lauren Hatcher, Heather Mattox, Stephanie McCormick, Keshia Ragin, Amy Velazquez, and Lynn Whittle. The department currently serves over 250 students across the county.



# Transition Day

Transitioning to high school is a significant milestone, and it can be both exciting and overwhelming. On March 14, all middle school students had the opportunity to visit the high school they will be attending in the upcoming school year. In addition to the visit, Feagin Mill Middle School and Mossy Creek Middle School participated in a High School Transition Day at their school. Representatives from Houston County High School and Perry High School came to speak with the students, offering an in-depth discussion about what to expect during the first year of high school and the differences between middle school and high school.

The middle school students found this information incredibly valuable, and we plan to expand this program to include all middle schools in the district next school year.

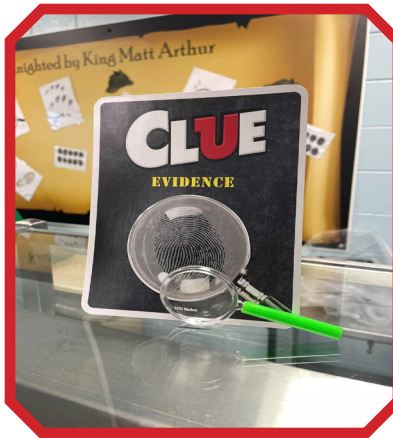
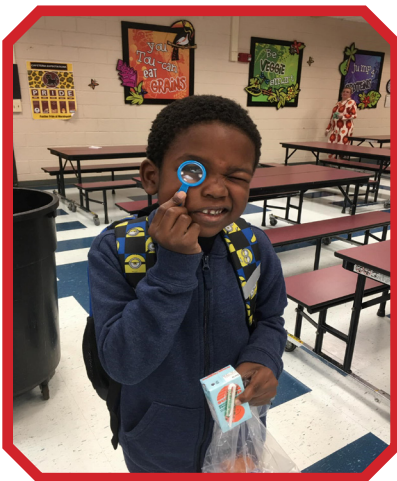




# SCHOOL NUTRITION

## CLUE INTO SCHOOL BREAKFAST

This year, we made National School Breakfast Week unforgettable from March 3-7! With a thrilling "Clue Into School Breakfast" mystery theme, our schools came alive with exciting activities, special guests, and plenty of delicious, nutritious meals. A huge shoutout to our incredible staff for making each morning so fun and engaging! Our students had a blast solving mysteries, enjoying breakfast, and starting their days with full bellies and bright smiles! Thank you to everyone who made this week so special!





# *Social Workers Win Community Project Grant*



*Houston County faces challenges with homeless families, particularly ensuring that children succeed in school despite their difficult circumstances. The school system provides essential resources like school supplies, backpacks, and transportation. Many families are facing crisis situations, with limited family homeless shelters and few resources to avoid eviction or homelessness.*

*To address this, our county implemented a strategy offering temporary financial assistance, including short stays at motels and limited rental help. The school system partnered with Robins Financial Credit Union, which generously provided a grant for 3-7 days of motel and rental assistance. This support helped families gain temporary relief, allowing them time to access community resources and plan for their next steps.*



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## 100% MEDICAID AUDIT



Houston County has set an exemplary standard for efficiency and collaboration throughout the validation review process. Their dedication to organization, responsiveness, and continuous improvement positions them as a model district, offering valuable best practices for others in ACE/CISS program implementation.

A significant contributor to this success is the exceptional work of Alissa Carson and Melissa Goggins. Their prompt communication, meticulous documentation, and proactive approach to meaningful discussions ensured a seamless review process. Not only did they guarantee compliance, but they also actively sought opportunities to enhance their district's cost reimbursements.



Houston County's forward-thinking approach and commitment to excellence make them a standout district. Alissa and Melissa's leadership and contributions are integral to this achievement.

- Phillip Long, DCH/PCG Compliance Analyst

### CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MEDICAID:



Miss fewer  
school days



More likely to graduate  
from high school



Grow up to be  
healthier adults



Earn higher wages &  
contribute more to USA

# Transition Academy News



## Grow Enterprise

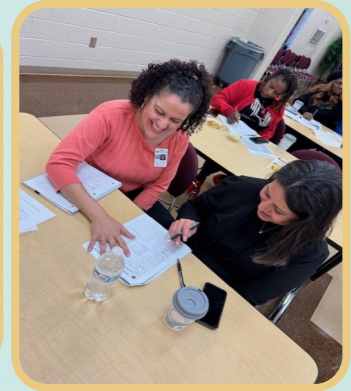
The Transition Academy has completed its first year with the GROW (Gearing Readiness for Onward Wellbeing) program, which helps students develop employment skills, entrepreneurship, and self-confidence. In addition to their well-known Casserole Creations, students worked on creating products for their new business, Transition Treasures. They made earrings, t-shirts, tumbler cups, and laundry soap while honing fine motor skills. These school-based enterprises provide valuable practice in teamwork, communication, and time management. The academy is proud of the students' hard work and looks forward to next year's progress.





# Now/Comp Waiver Assistance

The Transition Academy held a workshop for parents on March 7th, focusing on the importance of the Now/Comp Waiver and assisting parents with the application process. Laura Sugg from The Arc Macon guided parents through the process and answered questions. Students participated by organizing tables, preparing breakfast, serving, and showcasing items from the student business, Transition Treasures. A special thank you was given to Laura Sugg for her expertise and to the students for their excellent work in hosting the event.



## Great Clips Prom Prep

Great Clips Warner Robins stylists Keshia Chase and Temeka Barrett provided free haircuts to students at the Transition Academy in preparation for the Partner's Prom.

This also led to potential employment opportunities, as Great Clips was accepting receptionist applications. The stylists volunteered their time to help the students feel their best for prom and even offered to return regularly to continue supporting the youth. We are grateful for their generosity and support!





# HCAA Student Visit

Students in the HCAA Teacher Pathway visited the LSSC on February 28 to explore the various amenities available to the community and Houston County students. They learned about the importance of wrap-around services and how, as future teachers, they can utilize these programs to support their students. Many students expressed interest in volunteering at LSSC.



## LSSC News



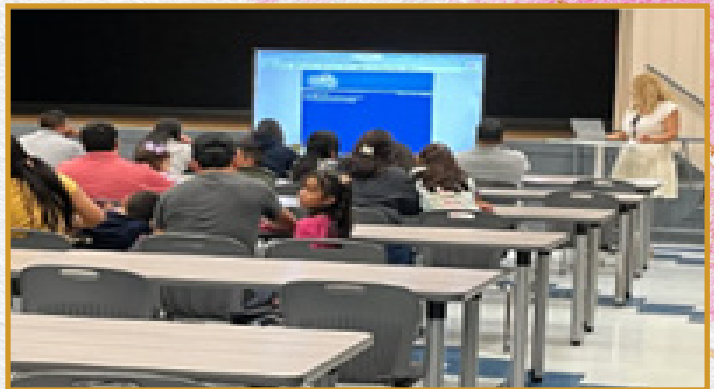
# Houston Healthcare Cooking Class

Throughout the month of March, students in grades 4-12 have been learning practical recipes that promote health and wellness, with parents encouraged to assist. Houston Healthcare nurses provided guidance on tips, skills, and the significance of healthy foods.



# GMAS Parent Training

On March 11, 2025, Jessica Perez, the HCSD ESOL Parent Student Liaison, helped ESOL families understand the importance of GMAS testing. She provided tips and strategies for success, along with advice on how parents can support their child's achievement.



## Pre-K Registration Assistance

On March 17, 2025, parents who needed assistance with Pre-K registration were invited to stop by the LSSC computer lab, where they could complete their applications. Staff members were on hand to answer questions and provide support with any technical issues.



# Houston County Aspiring Leaders Shine at GCASE Administrator Development Academy

Houston County educators Melanie Duncan and Kim Grizzle recently participated in the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (GCASE) Administrator Development Academy, a year-long program that prepares aspiring leaders to create impactful initiatives for their districts.

Ms. Duncan developed an Alternate Access Resource Library to support teachers of students with intellectual disabilities, providing resources and strategies for effective instruction. This new initiative allows teachers in our ID self-contained classrooms to easily access a Google site where they can explore available resources and submit a Google form to request instructional materials for their classrooms. In addition, we've partnered with students from the Transition Academy to assist in the process by helping to create and fulfill orders.

Ms. Grizzle created a Co-Teaching Training Program to enhance collaboration between general and special education teachers, fostering an inclusive learning environment.

Both educators presented their projects at the Spring GCASE Legal Issues Conference, and their efforts have had a far-reaching impact. Inspired by their work, two teacher leaders from Troup County are now planning to create a center modeled after the Lindsey Student Support Center.

Congratulations to Ms. Duncan and Ms. Grizzle for their dedication and commitment to improving special education in Houston County and beyond!

