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PRESS RELEASE

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Gifted & Talented Education Teachers Honored by Shah Family



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Fifty-seven teachers of gifted and talented students from across the Houston County School District were recently honored as recipients of the Houston County Education Assistance Fund on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Manoj Shah. Each teacher was presented with a classroom grant between \$400 and \$500, as well as a certificate in recognition of their enthusiasm, devotion and effectiveness in gifted, honors and advanced placement programs.

After their children graduated from Warner Robins High School, Dr. and Mrs. Shah began the Houston County Education Assistance Fund because they were pleased with the education

their children received while enrolled in Houston County. The family created the fund to support teachers who nurture and encourage innovation, creativity and student passion. The award began with Warner Robins High School and over time was extended to all five high schools. In 2017, the Shah family expanded their gift to include Houston County's eight middle schools, and in 2022, Dr. Shah increased his donation to include one gifted teacher from each elementary and primary school in the county. This year, he also made a donation to a teacher from the Houston Accelerated Scholars Program at Houston College and Career Academy.

The honorees from the high school level are listed below:

- ★ Houston College and Career Academy: James Brock
- ★ Houston County High: Randi Collier, Cassandra Ingram and Tammy Strickland
- ★ Northside High: Thalassia Harris, Patrick Leahy and Washella Simmons
- ★ Perry High: Tiffany Frank, Brianna Walker and Melissa Westphal
- ★ Veterans High: Clint Abbott, Sarah Harlow and Megan Jones
- ★ Warner Robins High: Andy Bailey, Kayla Martinez and Shakeira Parsons

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The honorees from the middle school level are listed below:

- ★ Bonaire Middle: Jeanne Kirk and Griffen Nauss
- ★ Feagin Mill Middle: John Harrell and Meara Lesho
- ★ Huntington Middle: Lacey King and Daphne Todd
- ★ Mossy Creek Middle: Suzanne Ganas and Natalie Rainwater
- ★ Northside Middle: Neandra Thomas and Trina Wright
- ★ Perry Middle: Whitney Dady and Susan Payne
- ★ Thomson Middle: Amanda Coggins and Rachel Smith
- ★ Warner Robins Middle: Candace Henderson and Kayla LeVieux

The honorees from the elementary school level are listed below:

- ★ Bonaire Elementary: Maggie Angel
- ★ Bonaire Primary: Lara Stanley
- ★ C.B. Watson Primary: Rakiya Hunter
- ★ Centerville Elementary: JaKisha Jackson
- ★ David Perdue Elementary: Lauren Stephens
- ★ David Perdue Primary: Tosha Wright
- ★ Eagle Springs Elementary: Brittney Johns
- ★ Hilltop Elementary: Nicole Hallman
- ★ Kings Chapel Elementary: Mary Kratz
- ★ Lake Joy Elementary: Sheree Hyde
- ★ Lake Joy Primary: Robin Burks
- ★ Langston Road Elementary: April Rainey
- ★ Langston Road Primary: Allan Lee
- ★ Matt Arthur Elementary: Brittany Campbell
- ★ Matt Arthur Primary: Tracy Gordon
- ★ Miller Elementary: Sandra Williams
- ★ Morningside Elementary: Felicia Hunlen
- ★ Northside Elementary: Amy Brown
- ★ Parkwood Elementary: Heather White
- ★ Pearl Stephens Elementary: Kandice Jackson
- ★ Quail Run Elementary: Caroline Terry
- ★ Russell Elementary: Jana Miller
- ★ Shirley Hills Elementary: Danielle Hall
- ★ Tucker Elementary: Holly Owen
- ★ Westside Elementary: Jimya Oglesby

The gifted and talented education program in Houston County offers motivated students unique opportunities to further their education. From the sciences to humanities, dedicated teachers have been paramount in the success of these advanced classes. For more information on the Gifted and Talented Education program, please visit www.hcbe.net/giftedandtalented.

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Pictured: Dr. Manoj Shah thanks the recipients of the 2025 Houston County Education Assistance Fund and encourages them to continue their passion for teaching others.

