



Student Services Board Report



The Butterfly Project Inspires Inclusivity at Georgia FCCLA State Leadership Conference

Ms. Kristi Bess recently delivered an inspiring presentation at the Georgia Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership Conference in March, highlighting the impact of the Houston County School District's Butterfly Project. Speaking to both students and educators, Bess shared how the program provides a supportive and inclusive theater experience for students with developmental disabilities.

The presentation emphasized how The Butterfly Project creates a safe and encouraging environment where participants can explore their creativity, build confidence, and strengthen social and communication skills through the performing arts. With the support of compassionate mentors and theater professionals, students are empowered to express themselves, form meaningful connections, and gain the confidence to shine both on and off the stage.

Attendees left feeling inspired to recognize the unique abilities of every individual and encouraged to consider how they might implement similar programs to promote inclusivity within their own schools and communities. Through initiatives like The Butterfly Project, students across the state are finding opportunities to spread their wings and soar.





The team at Robins Federal Credit Union has shown outstanding support for the Lindsey Student Support Center through a dedicated volunteer initiative. Each Tuesday morning, rotating staff members assist with essential tasks such as preparing food bags for the food pantry, organizing clothing in the resource room, working in the community garden, and sorting books in the library. Their ongoing commitment helps ensure resources remain accessible to the families we serve. We are grateful for their continued partnership and positive impact on our students and families.

Summer fun at the LSSC

On May 14, occupational therapist, Ansley Bailey, facilitated a parent workshop focused on sensory processing and behavior regulation in the home environment. During the session, participants gained valuable insight into how unmet sensory needs can affect a child's behavior and daily functioning. Parents developed a deeper understanding of the connection between sensory input and emotional responses while learning practical, easy-to-implement strategies to support positive behavior and self-regulation during everyday routines. The workshop equipped families with tools and knowledge to better support their children's development and promote positive outcomes at home.



HCCA AVTF Student Movie Premiere

On May 8, students from the Houston County Career Academy Audio Video Technology and Film (AVTF) program showcased their creativity and talent by premiering original student films at the Lindsey Student Support Center. The event brought together families, staff, and community supporters to celebrate the students' hard work, storytelling abilities, and artistic achievements.



Foster Family Support Middle Georgia Presentation

On May 12, Family Engagement Liaison Erica Abram presented to Foster Family Support of Middle Georgia in Perry, highlighting the resources and services available through the Lindsey Student Support Center. During the session, families who had adopted or were considering adoption engaged in meaningful discussion, asked questions, and learned about critical supports available to meet their needs.

As a result of this partnership, Foster Family Support of Middle Georgia generously donated \$700 in gift cards for gas, groceries, and meals. These funds will provide immediate support for families experiencing hardship and strengthen community efforts to support children and families in need.



Compete, Learn, Succeed: The Job Olympics Debut



Georgia's first-ever Job Olympics was a tremendous success as five middle schools—Perry, Huntington, Thompson, Feagin Mill, and Northside—gathered at the Lindsey Student Support Center for a day of competition, collaboration, and career readiness. Students competed in rolling silverware, folding hand towels, and interviewing skills.

The event highlighted employability and independent living skills while building teamwork, confidence, and school spirit. Transition Academy students and staff led the event from start to finish, serving as greeters, judges, scorekeepers, and volunteers, demonstrating outstanding leadership and professionalism. TEEM Academy also supported the event by hosting and providing lunch for volunteers.

Opening ceremonies featured remarks from Dr. Arrington, Director of Student Services, and guest speaker Elise James from the Georgia Department of Education, who encouraged students to continue building future-ready skills. Dana Wiggins, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, recognized top students and schools during the awards ceremony.

Special recognition goes to Feagin Mill Middle School and Jessica Ledoux for their leadership and coordination, as well as Bonnie Brown and Erica Abram for their organization and creativity. This inaugural event was made possible through the vision and leadership of Dr. Brandi Pardo.

The success of Georgia's first Job Olympics marks the beginning of an exciting tradition for Houston County School District.

LINDSEY STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER

Sensory Room



SUMMER HOURS MON-THUR

Houston County parents of students with disabilities are invited to schedule time in our sensory room.

**Contact the LSSC,
to schedule a time slot
478-210-7739**



**81 Tabor Drive,
Warner Robins,
Georgia**

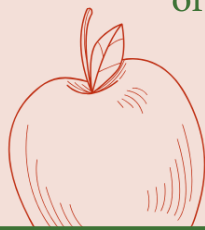
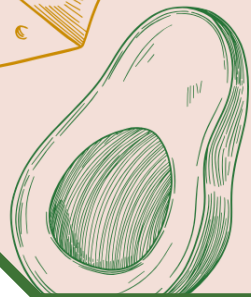
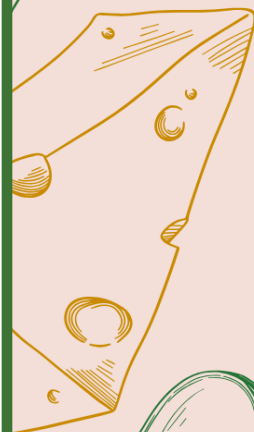
SCHOOL NUTRITION AWARDS BANQUET



The Houston County School Nutrition Awards Banquet honored the dedication and achievements of school nutrition staff across the district, including a special tribute to seven retirees whose years of service left a lasting impact.

The evening recognized several outstanding accomplishments, including state honors through the Georgia School Nutrition Association, Rookie Manager of the Year for Jesica Land, Employee of the Year for Eric Nachreiner, and Systemwide Manager of the Year for Lutissius Jones.

Additional highlights included nearly 500,000 meals served through the summer feeding program, 3,000 holiday meal bags distributed, and outstanding health inspection results. The celebration concluded with prize giveaways and a fun-filled finale honoring the hard work of the entire school nutrition team.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH: EXPANDING STUDENT SUPPORT



In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Houston County Schools continues to prioritize student well-being by expanding access to mental health resources and support services.



Through a new partnership with Atrium Health, middle and high school students now have access to virtual mental health therapy services, helping reduce barriers to care for families. In the first three months of the partnership, nearly 30 students were referred for services.

In addition, district mental health clinicians Charlotte Chupp and Sierra Hill led Dialectical Skills Groups (DSG) for more than 30 middle school students, teaching practical skills for managing emotions, stress, relationships, and impulsive behaviors. One student shared, “Thank you for being there for me during one of the hardest times in my life. Your kindness means more than you will ever know.”

