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31 Gifted & Talented Education Teachers Honored

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Thirty-one teachers of gifted and talented students from 13 schools were honored Sept. 9, 2020, via a virtual reception through Zoom. Each honoree received \$500 and a certificate as a recipient of the Houston County Education Assistance Fund on behalf of the Manoj H. Shah family. Refreshments were also delivered to them at their school.

Teachers were selected for their enthusiasm, devotion and effectiveness in honors and advanced placement programs. The honorees are listed below by school.

- ★ Houston County High School ~ Terri Hammerle, Maureen Martin and Kathryn Grace Watkins
- ★ Northside High School ~ Kathrine Branch, Matthew Boone and Douglas Crosby
- ★ Perry High School ~ Blake Dunbar, Debra Anderson and Dawn Knapek
- ★ Veterans High School ~ Sarah Harlow, Megan Jones and Li Ma
- ★ Warner Robins High School ~ Mark Bailey, Louis Leskosky and Nicole Rader
- ★ Bonaire Middle School ~ Laurie Coggins and Candace Long
- ★ Feagin Mill Middle School ~ Paula Peavy and Dustin Rainey
- ★ Huntington Middle School ~ Aaliyah James and Destiny McLeod
- ★ Mossy Creek Middle School ~ Donna Burner and Heather Schmanski
- ★ Northside Middle School ~ Russell Bugg and Dawn Stuckey
- ★ Perry Middle School ~ Amy Jones and Faith Terry
- ★ Thomson Middle School ~ Rebecca Albrecht and Amanda Coggins
- ★ Warner Robins Middle School ~ Kacy Jones and Brianna Walker

To learn more about each of the honorees, please visit the Gifted and Talented Education webpage, www.hcbe.net/giftedandtalented, and view the [2020-2021 honoree presentation](#).

MORE

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31 Gifted & Talented Education Teachers Honored Sept. 9 / page 2 of 2

Since 2001, the Shah family has recognized high school advanced placement and honors teachers with a cash award and a reception held in their honor. Dr. and Mrs. Shah initiated this gift because they were pleased with the education their three children received while enrolled in Houston County schools, to include graduation from Warner Robins High School. They created the fund to support teachers who nurture and encourage innovation, creativity and student passion. The award began with Warner Robins High and, over time, extended to all five high schools. In 2016, the Shah family has expanded their gift to include Houston County's eight middle schools. The Shah family will grant \$500 for three teachers in each of the five high schools and two teachers in each of the eight middle schools.

The gifted and talented education program offers motivated students unique opportunities to further their education. From the sciences to the humanities, dedicated teachers have been paramount in the success of these advanced classes.

"Dr. and Mrs. Shah were very pleased with the education their three children received from Warner Robins High School in Houston County," commented Olethia Thomas, Director of Gifted Education and Advanced Placement Coordinator. "The Shahs are strong supporters of education in general, and of gifted and honors education specifically. This annual award is their way of supporting our dedicated gifted and talented education teachers, which greatly benefits our students. We are truly appreciative of their ongoing support."

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