

# STUDENT SERVICES REPORT



## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION



We are excited about a new partnership between the Houston County Transition Academy and the School Nutrition Program. Led by special education teacher Melanie Murphy, select students at the Transition Academy work at Warner Robins High School packing breakfast bags. Students began with just one item to load into a bag and have now progressed to an assembly line. Mrs. Murphy says the students love to look for ways to create a more efficient process. They are currently able to pack approximately 800 bags on any given morning!

When observing the students, it is clear they enjoy the opportunity to participate in a school-related process. In addition, several students in this class have passed the National Restaurant Association’s Food Handler ServSafe test! This is a significant accomplishment as students will now qualify to enter into the job market with this certification.

James Bryant, WRHS School Nutrition Manager stated, “This partnership is a win-win. With shortages in labor, the students fill a very real need in my kitchen. They are such hard workers who take pride in their work. I would love to hire several of them!” We could not agree more! One student is in the process of completing the substitute food assistant application, with hopes of being hired to work the rest of the school year and with our summer feeding program!

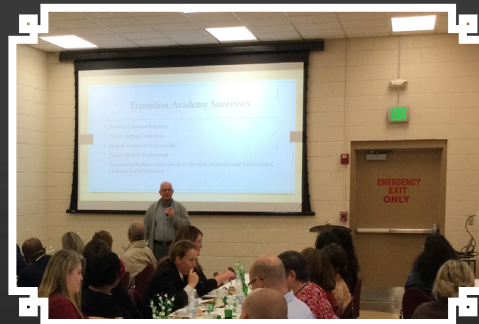
We appreciate the collaboration of the Transition Academy and WRHS School Nutrition Program and look forward to working together in the future!



# Collaborative Community Luncheon

The Collaborative Community Luncheon was held on March 15th at the Houston County Transition Academy. Stakeholders received information about the Transition Academy program and the facility. Students from the Transition Academy decorated the tables, greeted guests, and helped serve drinks and desserts to stakeholders. Two of the students and two parents shared their success stories with the group. LaKeisha Levi, ServSafe Instructor, and Ed Gonzalez, Christian Social Ministries, told the stakeholders how beneficial and successful they view their collaboration with our classes in the community.

At the end of the presentation, stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on family and community engagement and collaboration between school and families. These comments and observations will be used to assist with continuous monitoring of our transition programs.



# PARAPROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

This month we are spotlighting two outstanding paraprofessionals from Quail Run Elementary, Mrs. Releford and Mrs. Carpenter .



Mrs. Releford is a former small group class para who now works as a 1:1 para in our Interrelated program. Mrs. Releford does whatever is asked of her. She makes things happen without having to be asked. Our Interrelated program is better because of her and we are happy to have her on our team. The world could definitely use more people like Mrs. Releford!

Mrs. Carpenter has been an Interrelated para for three years. She works really well with our general education teachers and truly wants the best for each student. We are fortunate to have her! Mrs. Carpenter shares that watching kids make progress, whether big or small, makes her job incredibly rewarding. She has been married for 12 years and has three boys ages 11, 9, and 4. During her down time she enjoys watching her kids play sports and loves a good spa day!



Student Services and Quail Run Elementary are grateful to have two outstanding paraprofessionals in Mrs. Releford and Mrs. Carpenter!

# Women in School Leadership Award



Congratulations Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services! Zabrina is a former special education director for the district yet continues to be directly involved in providing leadership for special education and broader student services. Dr. Cannady was honored in February at the AASA National Conference as a finalist for the 2022 Women in School Leadership Awards. Zabrina is the immediate Past-President for G-CASE. She also serves on the GAEL Board and will be the GAEL President in 2022-2023. In addition to providing leadership in Georgia, Zabrina is the Treasurer on the CASE International Board.

The award, sponsored by Horace Mann and AASA, pays tribute to the talent, creativity, and vision of outstanding women educational administrators in the nation's public schools. "Horace Mann supports AASA's efforts to increase the number of women in educational leadership roles," said Horace Mann president and CEO, Marita Zuraitis. "A critical component of this initiative is increasing visibility of the exceptional women leaders who are driving positive change in our schools. As a company dedicated to serving educators and committed to fostering an inclusive culture, Horace Mann is proud to honor these remarkable leaders. Congratulations to our finalists." "A bold initiative that is imperative in public education is recognizing exceptional leadership from the scores of outstanding women who are creating positive learning solutions on behalf of the students they serve in their respective communities," said Daniel A. Domenech, executive director, AASA. "It has been a longstanding tradition of AASA to honor female leaders whose work is exemplary. We are grateful to Horace Mann for supporting this program."

## SPED New Teacher Induction

On March 15, 2022, assistive technology team members, Jennifer Thomas and Bethany Baker led a presentation for the Special Education Teacher Induction monthly session. The presentation included foundation level assistive technology for academic and communication needs. In order to thoroughly cover this pertinent information, both presenters asked and answered questions centered on what assistive technology is, the process for considering it, and its implementation. The attendees were able to ask specific questions pertaining to difficult situations they have experienced.

In addition, several video links were provided for educators to access at a later time. These videos range from examples of filling out assistive technology forms to step by step directions for turning on basic assistive technology functions available on Chromebooks. The goal of the presenters was to provide everyone with a better understanding of what our county has to offer and to provide resources for individuals to access throughout the school year.

# Feminine Hygiene Grant



Approximately 3,500 First Period Menstruation Kits were distributed to school counselors on Tuesday, March 22nd. The kits will be given to all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade girls as part of the Always Puberty & Confidence Education Program. This program has helped girls, teachers, and parents for more than 35 years. It provides educational resources and samples to help girls understand the changes they will go through during puberty and how to cope with them.

The kits include products and an online resource for menstrual self-care. This project was a coordinated effort between the Student Services and Teaching and Learning Departments.

The kits were funded by the feminine hygiene grant our system received this fiscal year for approximately \$55,000. This is the 3rd grant we have received over the past 2 years.

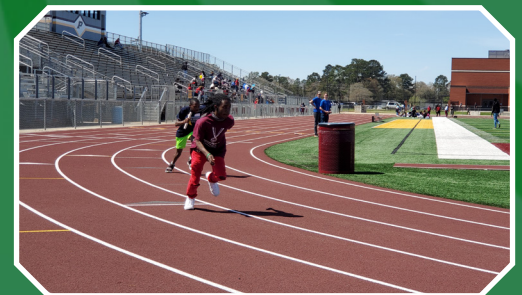
## Administrator Development Academy

Paula Cooper represented the Houston County School District in the first cohort of the Special Education Administrator Development Academy, developed and led by the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE). The purpose of this initiative is to provide teacher leaders with a solid foundation in components necessary for leadership and administrative roles within special education programs. Teacher leaders from across the state of Georgia participated in professional learning, attended Fall and Spring G-CASE, and presented a culminating project during the G-CASE Spring Legal Forum. Mrs. Cooper's culminating project, "Improving Student Outcomes Through Streamlined Pathway Supports", researched the barriers of students with disabilities completing CTAE pathways. Houston County students with disabilities completing a CTAE pathway have a graduation rate of 92%. After meeting with teachers, counselors, administrators, and the Director of CTAE, Mrs. Cooper created an action plan to increase the number of students with disabilities in Houston County completing a CTAE pathway. As part of this process, Mrs. Cooper created an Infographic with all CTAE programs for each school listed on one page and a Pathway Advisement Checklist that will follow the student from 8th through 12th grade. Mrs. Cooper presented her project at the G-CASE Spring Legal Conference in March.



# Spring Special Olympics

Perry High School hosted our local Special Olympics on March 16th, 17th, and 21st. Over 530 athletes competed in level A events, volleyball, and track and field events. The games were competitive and fun! All students were awarded ribbons based on the Special Olympics motto "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt." PHS students and administration collaborated with Special Olympics to make this year's opening ceremonies one of the best yet. Each morning, members of the Perry High School Chorus sang the National Anthem and the JROTC present colors. Twenty-eight seniors, representing each high school, were recognized at the event. The Partner's Club from VHS, led by Molly Brown, donated proceeds from the Miss Sweetheart Pageant to our local Special Olympics program. Junior Miss Sweetheart, Karrington Starks from BMS, and Miss Sweetheart, Zaharia Whittington from VHS, joined Molly in presenting a check in the Amount of \$6,788.25 to our Special Olympics Committee. Northside High School's JROTC and Partner's Club teamed up to help with event preparation, organization, and awards. Mrs. Murphy's class, from the Transition Academy, managed the concession stand each of the three days. The students were able to use this opportunity to practice work-based learning concepts including counting money, serving customers, stocking product, and practicing proper sanitization. We are thankful for each of the schools and organizations in Houston County that volunteered to make this event a success for our athletes.





# SURPRISE



# VISITOR



Warner Robins Middle School, Huntington Middle School, and Northside Middle School had a surprise visit during a recent community based instruction trip. While at Memorial Park, they met the Mayor of Warner Robins. Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick took time out of her busy day to answer questions from our students. This was an opportunity for our students to make a real-world connection with their Social Studies lessons on government. The students were honored to have a meaningful visit with such an influential member of the community!



## Hands On Learning

Tracy Ford, Agriculture teacher at Huntington Middle School, is working with our small group classes on a farm-to-table unit. The students are learning how to harvest eggs from the school's chickens, clean the eggs, and prepare the eggs in various recipes to show physical and chemical changes. This has been a great way for our students to learn about agriculture combined with science in action.



## A FARMHOUSE PROM



Each year, Houston County High School hosts a Partner's Prom for all special needs students in the county. The theme for this year's prom was "A Farmhouse Prom." The lunchroom was decorated with garden ceiling lights, balloon arches, and flowers. Students came dressed up in their fancy attire to dance the night away to the DJ's favorite dance tunes. Each year the current Seniors are recognized by walking across the stage and receiving a special gift for their accomplishments. Students were also provided refreshments and beverages. A photographer captured individual pictures of this special occasion. Special Education teachers volunteer to help with planning and organizing this event. This special evening is always a night to remember.

## CEC AWARDS

On March 10th, the Ellen Maltais Chapter for Exceptional Children held their annual awards program. This year's theme was Celebrating 100 Years of CEC, celebrating the past, committed to the future, cheers to 100 years. Houston County High School graciously hosted the program. The night was a celebration of students, teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and community members. We ended our evening recognizing the countless contributions of retirees Lynn Hawkins and Jenny Millward have made to our local chapter and the field of special education.

*Ellen Maltais Chapter*

## Council for Exceptional Children

**2022 Awards Ceremony**

**100**  
*Celebrating 100 Years of CEC*

*Celebrating the Past, Committed to the Future, Cheers to 100 Years!*

**March 10, 2022**

**Houston County High  
Auditorium**

**5:30PM-6:30PM**



# Social Worker Appreciation Month



Latonya Blasingame

March was Social Worker Appreciation Month. The theme for this year's celebration was "The Time is Right for Social Work." The Houston County School District celebrated School Social Worker Week March 7-11. School Social Workers are advocates who help students achieve academic success by linking home, school, and community. In order to reach this goal, School Social Workers provide support services to remove barriers to student success. These support services include intervention, crisis support, assisting students in dealing with mental health and behavioral challenges, and addressing issues of truancy.



Stephen Veal



Shante Hendrick

Social Workers collaborate with families to help meet their basic needs and reduce barriers that keep students from attending school. Georgia House Bill 1190 states that students missing five or more unexcused days from school are considered truant. Social workers conduct home visits to locate students who are truant, attend court, collaborate with the judges at magistrate and juvenile courts, work with community agencies, and write grants for the department. Several schools across the district have campaigns in their schools to increase school attendance with assistance from social workers. The goal is to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to reach his or her potential.



Amy Hutto



Stephanie Canion



Maria Josey

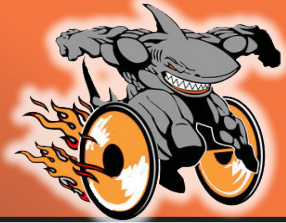


April Nelson



Linda Lewis

# CONGRATULATIONS



The Houston County Sharks defense won the championship. The Sharks defeated the Dekalb Silverstreaks 32-13 to capture the 2022 GHSA/AAASP State Wheelchair Basketball Championship title. The Sharks defense, led by Dylan Thompson and Ger'mir Gordon, held the Silverstreak's lead scorer, Najee Smothers to 10 points. Elianne Stevens snagged key steals disrupting two fast breaks in the third quarter that kept them from tying the game.

During the second half the Sharks offense led by Adonis Brown (16 points) and Jaquavious West (6 points), started opening the gap. Other Shark scorers were Dalton Crosby (2 points), Ger'mir Gordon (2 points), Elianna Stevens (2 points), Dylan Thompson (2 points), and Anthony Cuti (2 points). Langley Yoh and Ca'ron Harris worked hard on offense by setting key blocks to allow their teammates to have open shots.



Players not listed in order: Langley Yoh (Sr., HCHS), Ca'ron Harris (Jr., VHS), Dylan Thompson (Soph., VHS), Elianna Stevens (Soph., HCHS), Jaquavious West (Soph., WRHS), Adonis Brown (Soph., HCHS), Dalton Crosby (8th gr., HMS), Ger'mir Gordon (8th gr., MCMS), and Anthony Cuti (8th gr., MCMS)

**AAASP SPORTS PROGRAM**  
**2021-22 WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL**  
**MASTER SCHEDULE**



Times subject to change, for information call Robyn Hootselle at (404) 294-0070, Ext. 2

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>VISITING TEAM</u>	<u>@</u>	<u>HOME TEAM</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Sat., 3-12	V	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	Clayton Eagles	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Gwinnett Heat	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Gwinnett Heat	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Houston Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Clayton Eagles	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-19	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Sharks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-26	V	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-26	V	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	Clayton Eagles	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 3-26	V	Clayton Eagles		DeKalb Silver Streaks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-2		<b>BYE WEEKEND</b>			
Sat., 4-9		<b>BYE WEEKEND</b>			
Sat., 4-16	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-16	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Houston Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-16	V	Houston Sharks	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-23	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-23	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Muscogee Lions	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-23	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-30	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Muscogee Lions	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-30	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-30	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Muscogee Lions	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-30	V	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	Houston Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 4-30	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**AAASP/GHSAA WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022**  
**LOCATION & HOST TBD**