

# STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

## WELCOME *September* *as we are continuously Growing*



The Transition Academy welcomed eight new students this year! A welcome party was held to celebrate. Teachers and students had a blast playing water volleyball, field games, and socializing with one another. Students cooked pancakes for breakfast and hotdogs for lunch. Collaborative learning opportunities were the focus of the day as students generated ideas for business opportunities surrounding the newly donated laser cutting machine. We are excited to see what this year has in store for the Transition Academy as we continue to grow!



# HEALTHY LIVING



Author: Simone Soublet

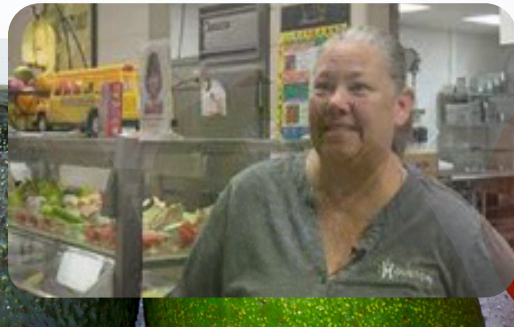
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<https://www.13wmaz.com/article/news/local/morningside-elementary-recognized-20-years-perfect-health-inspection-scores/93-2851bf7a-0e42-4281-947d-dcce719e5cac>

‘Looking for safety’: One Houston County school recognized for 20 years of perfect health inspection scores

PERRY, Ga. — Morningside Elementary School in Perry has a cafeteria filled with a busy crew working to provide nutritious foods for students. The kids seem to love the food, and the cafeteria crew loves the kids. The cafeteria manager at Morningside Elementary, Donna Stewart, makes it her top priority to provide nutritious meals and be a resource for the students. “I get up every morning to come to work...but it’s not work,” Stewart said. “I’m just excited about coming into work and feeding the children, seeing the kids, communicating with the kids, and I forgot I even got paid for that.” Stewart has been with Morningside Elementary for the past 18 years. Stewart stated that when it comes to serving the kids, the cafeteria crew must be there bright and early. “When you walk in the door at 6 o’clock in the morning, it’s feet to the pavement,” Stewart said. “You’re constantly running around looking for safety while preparing the food. You run until 2 o’clock in the afternoon, 2:30 when it’s time to leave.”

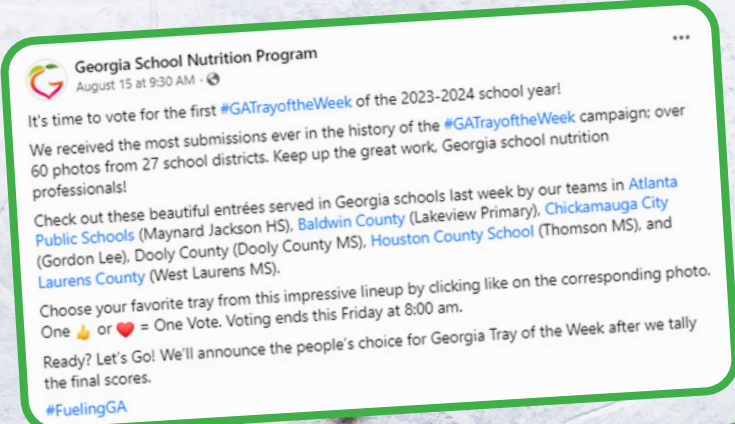
What goes into making the kids happy and their bellies full? The students get four different entree choices per day with two hot vegetable and two fruit choices. They also have a salad bar the kids can enjoy. “We do different things like your standard pizzas and sandwiches, but then we also try to change things up,” Houston County School District’s Culinary Arts Area Manager Morgan Dockery said. In addition to providing a variety of choices for students, Morningside has received a perfect health inspection score for the past 20 years! Dockery reacted to the accomplishment by saying, “It’s incredible that 20 years, really two decades worth, of perfect scores. Not just good scores but perfect scores are almost unbelievable. It’s nice that we’ve created a beautiful culture of good food but also a good time in the lunchroom.” In addition to recognizing Morningside Elementary School, Houston County School District also awarded over 20 other schools for having over a decade of perfect health inspections. Congratulations to the Food and Nutrition Department and all of their hard working employees!





**H**ouston County School Nutrition was invited to participate in the Georgia School Nutrition Program's Tray of the Week contest hosted by the Georgia Department of Education. Our tray featured Boom Boom Shrimp with a Freshly Baked Roll, Roasted Ranch Potatoes, Spicy Cabbage, Fresh Watermelon, Dippable Veggies, and of course Chocolate Milk! While we didn't win first prize, we loved reading all the supportive comments from our community. We love good food, amazing staff members, and our students!

# School NUTRITION



Georgia School Nutrition Program  
August 15 at 9:30 AM · 🌐

It's time to vote for the first #GATrayoftheWeek of the 2023-2024 school year! We received the most submissions ever in the history of the #GATrayoftheWeek campaign; over 60 photos from 27 school districts. Keep up the great work, Georgia school nutrition professionals!

Check out these beautiful entrées served in Georgia schools last week by our teams in [Atlanta Public Schools](#) (Maynard Jackson HS), [Baldwin County](#) (Lakeview Primary), [Chickamauga City](#) (Gordon Lee), [Dooly County](#) (Dooly County MS), [Houston County School](#) (Thomson MS), and [Laurens County](#) (West Laurens MS).

Choose your favorite tray from this impressive lineup by clicking like on the corresponding photo. One 🍌 or ❤️ = One Vote. Voting ends this Friday at 8:00 am.

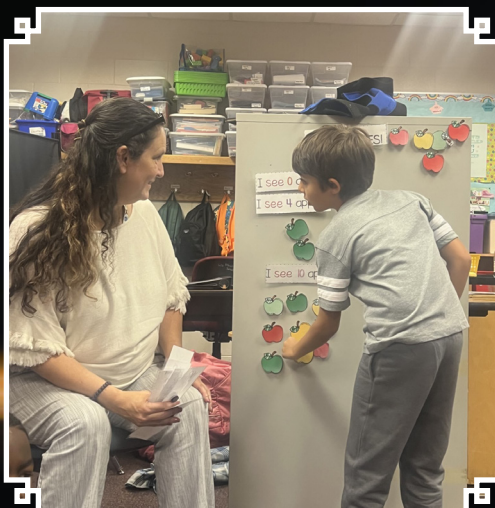
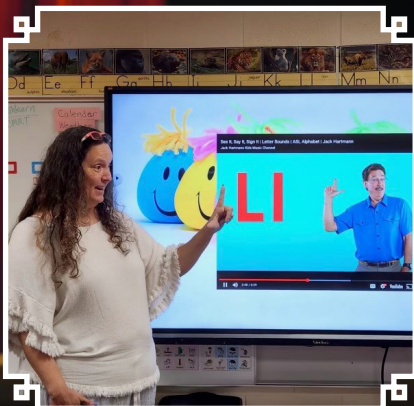
Ready? Let's Go! We'll announce the people's choice for Georgia Tray of the Week after we tally the final scores.

#FuelingGA



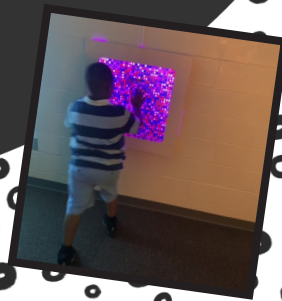
# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

**O**ur teacher in the spotlight this month is Stephanie Sanders from Lake Joy Elementary School. As the daughter of an Air Force family, Mrs. Sanders has lived in Colorado, England, Florida, Ohio, and Georgia. She moved to Warner Robins in 1986, where she graduated from Warner Robins High School. She has called Houston County home ever since. Mrs. Sanders knew she wanted to be a teacher from an early age. She recalls for Christmas one year, her parents bought a giant rolling chalkboard that she used to teach neighborhood kids in her garage. After graduating from high school, Mrs. Sanders attended Macon State College and Valdosta State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Special Education. She has been teaching for a total of 26 years. Mrs. Sanders loves her school family at Lake Joy Elementary. They have an active Partner's Club, consisting of approximately 120 partners. Mrs. Sanders stated "my favorite thing is watching my students enrich people's lives. By being themselves, they teach others acceptance, tolerance, compassion, patience, and unconditional love. They bring laughter, happiness, and so much more." Mrs. Sanders strives to build foundational skills to assist her students in becoming productive workers in the future. She loves building independent task boxes to assist students with following directions and building independence. Thank you, Mrs. Sanders, for loving your students and helping them reach their highest potential!




## BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED

The sensory room project included 15 sensory rooms throughout the District. Schools with programs for students with severe and profound intellectual disabilities were identified as the initial locations for sensory rooms due to the difficulty these students have engaging with a traditional learning environment. Students with severe and profound disabilities sometimes require additional sensory stimulation to engage in learning and communication. A lack of communication and engagement can lead to behaviors not conducive to the learning environment. Sensory rooms should be used as part of a regular sensory diet and visited at scheduled times to help keep students from becoming dysregulated. This proactive intervention has already impacted students and learning environments. Ms. Brett, from Hilltop Elementary shared this about her class's experience, "I want to tell you how grateful I am for the sensory room at Hilltop. This addition to our routine has had a tremendous impact on student engagement, behavior management, and our ability to focus on tasks. Thank you so much for making this happen." Ms. Patti Durden at Thomson Middle School stated, "Integrating the sensory room into our daily schedule has been a proactive measure for my students' sensory needs. The students are actively engaged in all parts of the room, from the movement of the swing to the feel of the marble wall unit. The calming atmosphere of the room helps when the sensory overload of a school building gets too much for some of my students." Moving forward, we plan to update sensory rooms already in existence by adding some of the very cool features we found as a result of working with Sensory Room Solutions. This successful project could not have happened without the support and expertise of the maintenance and facilities team as well as the business department. Please take some time to visit our new sensory rooms, you will not be disappointed!





The United Way and SunMark Community Bank partnered to volunteer at the LSSC on August 26th. Eight volunteers stocked the Food Pantry with donated goods and the Literacy Center with donated books. One volunteer said “We’re really happy to come out and help our community in any capacity we can.” These partners are a valued resource for Houston County students and families.

Lindsey Student Support Center 

# COMMUNITY

Georgia House of Representatives Mandisha Thomas and Doreen Carter visited the LSSC on August 22nd to learn more about the programming available at the center and agricultural resources that will be available to the community. Marquita Gillespie of Yosef’s Coat Ministries, a non-profit organization focused on the therapeutic and economic benefits of horticulture, has partnered with the LSSC to develop a community garden. Mr. Tom Seward, CTAE Director, joined the tour and participated in a discussion about potentially offering an Agri-Literacy event for students during the upcoming summer.





The Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) / Middle Georgia RESA Collaborative Communities meeting was hosted at the LSSC on August 25th. The theme was “Storm Chasers: Acquire Data for Decision Making.” Regional Special Education leaders gathered to receive professional learning and updates from the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Lindsey Student Support Center



# COMMUNITY

The LSSC and Mercer University Educational Opportunity Center held the first of three College, Technical Planning, and Preparation workshops on August 26th. The event was attended by eleven students and parents. The first workshop focused on planning for post-secondary education opportunities. The second and third workshops will focus on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Financial Literacy. One parent shared “This is such an amazing opportunity. I thought I knew everything I needed to do for our child to go to college. I had no idea what was needed to prepare.” Per Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Dr. Zabrina Cannady, “We would love to just have a flood of students who leave this program with the knowledge that they need to be able to access the services they need and enter into an institution of higher learning.”



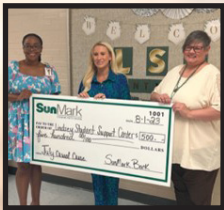
Lindsey Student Support Center



# COMMUNITY

## Partners

**B**reane Knowles, Marketing Director with SunMark Community Bank, presented a check to representatives of the Lindsey Student Support Center on August 2nd. Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Bonnie Brown, and Tangela Brice graciously accepted the funds raised to support the programming for the resource center. SunMark employees raised the \$500 by participating in a jeans “dress down” day with all contributions going to the center. Thank you SunMark employees for your support!



COME BE A PART OF THE

## SEPTEMBER

EVENTS at LSSC

### THE FALL COLLEGE & TECHNICAL PLANNING & PREPARATION SERIES

HOUSTON COUNTY SENIORS

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

8/26, 9/9, 9/23  
9:00-12 NOON  
LINDSEY STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER  
81 TABOR DR. WARNER ROBINS

**PART I: COLLEGE & TECHNICAL SCHOOL PREPARATION**

August 26, 2023  
9:00-12 noon

**PART II: FINANCIAL AID: FAFA**

September 9, 2023  
9:00-12 noon

**PART III: FINANCIAL LITERACY**

September 23 2023  
9:00-12 noon



Limited Seating  
Students & Parents  
**MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!**

Complete On-line Registration & MEOC Student Registration Form (Available From Your Counselor)



Sponsored By:



## September Activities



The Lindsey Center will be open from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on September 5 for WiFi access.



**Cooking Cohorts - Provided by Houston Healthcare**

Cohort 1 dates: September 11, September 25, October 16, and October 30  
Students in grades 4-12 will work to create healthy meal options to share at home.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



**Horticulture Workshop - Provided by Yosefs Coat Ministries: September 6 and 20**

Students in grades 4-12 will learn about horticulture.

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM



**Quilting Workshop: September 18**

Students in grades 4-12 will make a quilted pillow in the fall workshop.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



**Mindful Moments: September 13 and 21**

Students in grades 4-12 will learn mindfulness techniques in our amazing sensory room.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



**To Do List Tuesdays: September 5, 12, 19, and 26**

Students in grades 4-12 with projects can take advantage of project resources (Computer, printer, poster board, markers, clay, basic art supplies) and a quiet space to work.

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM



**Thursday Fun with Friends: September 7, 14, 21, and 28**

Students in grades 4-12 are invited to participate in games and fun. The playground and Literacy Center will be open!

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION: [WWW.HCBE.NET/LINDSEYCALENDAR](http://WWW.HCBE.NET/LINDSEYCALENDAR)