

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

2021-2022 REACH Scholarship Recipients

TaVionce Holloman
BMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Golden Key
Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: TaVionce Holloman \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
Memo: Georgia REACH Scholarship
Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Jayden St. Hilaire
FMMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Golden Key
Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Jayden St. Hilaire \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
Memo: Georgia REACH Scholarship
Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Aryn Myles
HMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Golden Key
Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Aryn Myles \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
Memo: Georgia REACH Scholarship
Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Zian Grubb
MCMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Zian Grubb \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
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Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Eight middle school students from the Houston County School District have been named recipients of the Realizing Education Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship. Students eligible for the scholarship must be in eighth grade, have grades of a “C” or higher in core courses, demonstrate and prove financial need, have excellent attendance, and have a behavior record that reflects no more than two disciplinary infractions.

The REACH Georgia program provides support for students with academic promise to help them successfully progress from middle school through college with the ultimate goal of earning a degree. Each student will have an academic coach and a mentor. Their coach will meet with them monthly to monitor progress and ensure they stay on track. Mentors meet with students weekly to help them establish goals, develop valuable life skills, increase confidence, and build self-worth. Upon high school graduation, the students will receive the \$10,000 scholarship to use toward college expenses at participating schools in Georgia.

Gisleine Cano-Rivera
NMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Golden Key
Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Gisleine Cano-Rivera \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
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Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Sophie Brown
PMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Golden Key
Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Sophie Brown \$10,000
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Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Daniela Cardenas
TMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Daniela Cardenas \$10,000
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Memo: Georgia REACH Scholarship
Houston County School District Authorized Signature

Hannah Wright
WRMS

HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Date: October 2021
Pay to the Order of: Hannah Wright \$10,000
Ten thousand and 00/100 cents
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Houston County School District Authorized Signature

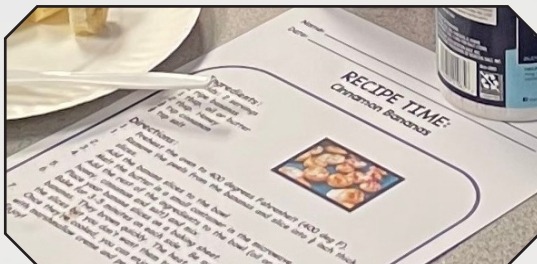
School Nutrition Fair Fun

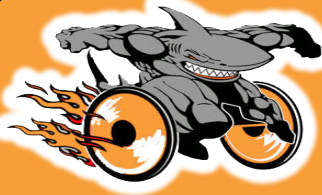
The fan favorite fair celebration came roaring back after its hiatus last year. This year's menu featured newcomers like smoked turkey legs, fried chicken drumsticks and funnel cake fries, alongside the standard fare of soft pretzels, corn dogs, and "candied" apples. Even our newest managers pulled out all the stops including costumes, plenty of decorations, games, and more! This year, the excitement extended to breakfast with a larger than life cinnamon roll and a breakfast corn dog. Fair week brought fun not only to our students, but staff and administrators as well. We appreciate all the participation and support during this week, and we look forward to doing even bigger and better things next October!



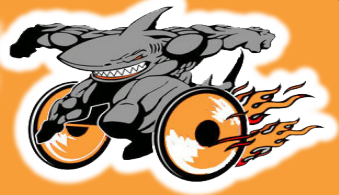
Civitan Grant Recipient

The Houston County Civitan Club offered the opportunity for our special education teachers to apply for \$200 mini grants. Marcie Williams at Northside Elementary School was awarded one of the grants. Mrs. Williams utilized the funds to purchase a bundle of microwave friendly recipes to use with students in her small group classroom. This has allowed her to integrate real world reading, writing, and math. The set included comprehension questions and data analysis materials. The funds from the mini grant were also used to purchase the ingredients and supplies to make each recipe.





SHARK NEWS



Community Service Project



The Houston County Sharks and Mrs. Melissa Stevens' class at Warner Robins High School joined forces to complete their first annual community service project. For their first project, the groups decided to recognize the doctors, nurses, and therapists involved with helping COVID-19 patients at the Houston Medical Center. Supporters throughout the county donated enough candy and gift cards for the Sharks to be able to prepare 200 goodie bags for the staff at Houston Medical. Each bag contained a message of thanks. It was the hope of the players and students to show how much they appreciate the doctors, nurses, and other staff members for taking excellent care of COVID-19 patients while family members were not able to be with them.

ASPIRE Awards

The American Association of Adapted Sports hosted the annual ASPIRE Awards on Sunday, October 24th. This year the competition was on an international level with nominees representing areas as far away as Africa. Houston County was well represented in several categories this year, including two nominees winning awards.

Dr. Jenny Millward won the Advocacy Award for her invaluable support of the Houston County Adapted Sports Program. If she is not in the stands cheering the Sharks on, she is advocating for us to get all we need to continue growing and being successful.

Rene Langlois won the Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award. Mrs. Langlois developed a wheelchair yoga program to help keep the Sharks in shape during the Covid-19 shutdown. Not only did the Sharks benefit from it, but other teams around the state also participated.

Other nominees include: Anna Henry (Coach of the year), Jeff McDanial (Volunteer of the year), Home Grown Yoga (Program Partner), and Christy Jones (Coach of the Year). We are extremely proud of each of our nominees and winners!

New Teacher Induction

New teachers have been engaged in additional sessions of our Special Education Teacher Induction program. The month of September focused on “Developing Measurable IEP Goals”. The participants learned the six components that comprise measurable IEP goals along with data collection procedures to determine student progress. Multiple resources were shared with teachers via Google Classroom. The Project Aware team presented information to the group during the October meeting. They reviewed the purpose of Project AWARE, social emotional learning curriculums and initiatives, as well as mental health resources within our district. The team provided examples of signs and symptoms of mental health challenges for students. Lastly, they discussed educator burnout, mental health self-assessment, and presented resources available in both our school system and in the community.



Speech Language Pathologists Webinars

On Friday, October 8, 2021, the Houston County Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) participated in three different professional learning webinars sponsored by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The first webinar was *A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: What SLPs Can Do with Images*. The focus of this webinar was the applicataion of easy-to-use free and low-cost (\$5 and less) technology tools that SLPs can use to incorporate images into their practice. Just like classroom teachers, SLPs are always looking for new and innovative ways to meet the needs of their students.



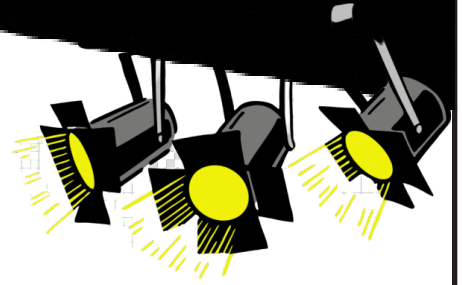
The second webinar was *SLP Intervention in Schools: Flexibility in Service Delivery*. During this webinar, SLPs learned strategies for identifying practical, realistic, and optimal service delivery approaches tailored to students and schools. The benefits and drawbacks of particular service delivery approaches, including pull-out services and in-classroom services, were addressed.



Finally, the SLPs completed *Empowering Paraeducators*. This webinar focused on utilizing the consistent communication partners already in many of our classrooms to support long-term student goals and generalization of communication skills. By building capacity within the classroom for students with speech and language needs, students can meet their goals and improve their communication skills more efficiently.

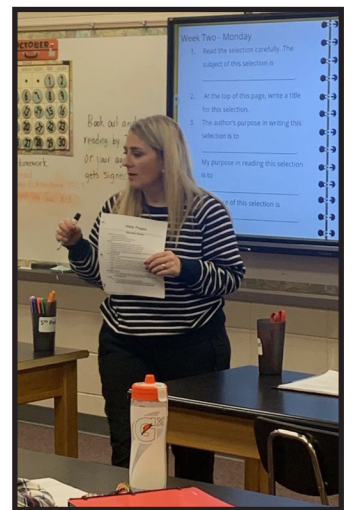


CEC Spotlight



Athena Singletary from Mossy Creek Middle School was awarded a Council of Exceptional Children mini grant based on her proposal for instructional materials. Mrs. Singletary shared “as a special education teacher, I have many students who are capable of reading 6th grade material, but struggle to develop intermediate level comprehension skills due to deficits in memory and vocabulary skills.” With the grant money, she was able to purchase the *Daily Reading Practice* materials, including consumable student books and the digital teacher’s resource. It is written by Judith Holbrook, a retired Georgia teacher from Peachtree City. Mrs. Singletary uses this resource daily to address short-term memory

deficits. The materials also assist students with unfamiliar vocabulary. She designed complementary Google slides as an extension activity for unfamiliar terms or ideas. Mrs. Singletary has observed how this helps her students who have weak vocabulary skills. The data derived from the lessons can be used as progress monitoring for IEP goals. Mrs. Singletary always goes the extra mile to meet our students’ needs. Thank you to CEC for providing teachers with these opportunities!

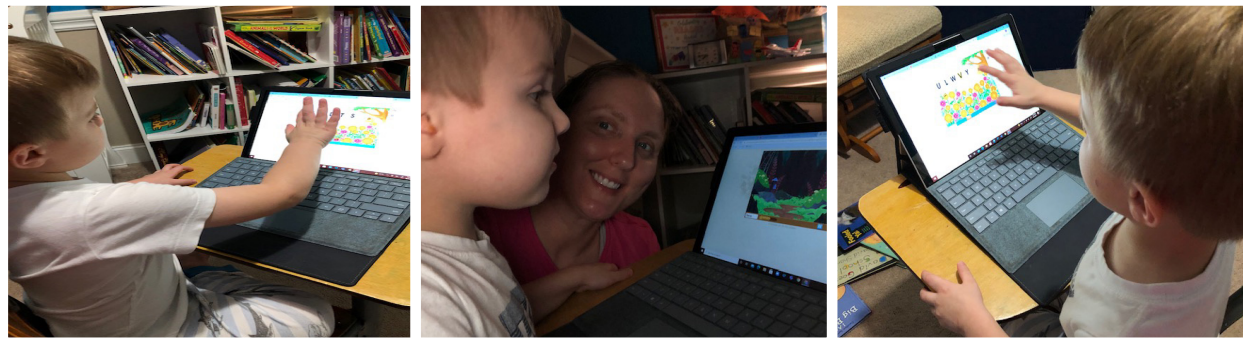


Special Olympics

Houston County Schools Special Olympics offered free physicals to its student athletes on September 28th. The Transition Academy not only hosted, but helped 290 students get their physicals. The Transition Academy students assisted in sanitizing, organizing, and serving food in the hospitality room. Our Occupational/Physical Therapy department supported the event by getting the students’ height and weight and the nurses documented vital signs. Students from the Nursing Pathway at the Houston County Career Academy were able to volunteer and obtain hours in the process.

Dr. Helen-Louise Moore and members of her staff at Pediatric Associates volunteered their entire day to ensure the students who participate in Houston County Schools Special Olympics received physicals. This event was a success because of the help and cooperation of the bus drivers, teachers, para-pros, Dr. Moore, and countless volunteers.

READING SUCCESS WITH WATERFORD



This year, Pre-school Special Education and Transition Kindergarten small group classes are benefiting from the Waterford Reading Program. Two hundred-twenty students have access to the program to strengthen early reading skills. The Waterford program is a research based program that provides an individualized curriculum for students in primary grades. Teachers and families receive ongoing training and mentoring from Houston County staff and the Waterford team.

The Waterford program also provides opportunities for parent engagement as young children access the Waterford Badge App at home. Many parents have expressed excitement about their children responding so well to the program. One parent, Ms. Chelsea McLemore, shared a testimonial of how she and her son, Theron, use the online program to engage in learning while she is stationed away from home. Ms. McLemore stated in an email, “We would log in every night before bed and do the 15-minute program together. I’d let him control the screen as I worked with him over Zoom. Occasionally, if he was being very good, we’d do 2 sessions in a day; but 15 minutes always seemed just about right and gave us time to do one more thing like read a book.” She shared pictures of them working on the program at home as well. She feels the program has allowed her to remain engaged in Theron’s academic progress regardless of the distance her career in the military takes her.

