

# STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

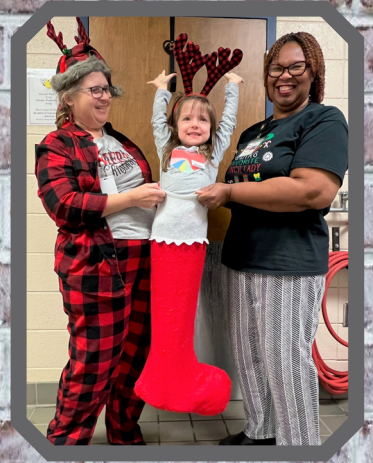
## Industry Seminar

**O**ur School Nutrition Program Director, Meredith Potter, was asked to speak at the December 2022 Industry Seminar on behalf of School Nutrition Directors statewide. Mrs. Potter is highly respected throughout the state of Georgia for her contributions to the industry. Her strong passion for School Nutrition and willingness to share both the triumphs and challenges that School Nutrition professionals face led to her being selected to serve on the State Director's Advisory Council. The members serving on this council are selected by the State Nutrition Director, Dr. Linette Dodson. We appreciate Mrs. Potter's willingness to be a voice for not only Houston County School Nutrition Program but school nutrition programs across the state.



## School Nutrition

December was all about decking the halls! For School Nutrition, it also meant we were decorating cakes, cookies, and all sorts of Christmas inspired goodies for our Holiday Dessert Day! Across the county, reindeer cookies, Christmas tree cakes, and festive cinnamon rolls adorned our serving lines! It was a Holly Jolly time, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year!



# OPERATION SANTA

Houston County School District Social Workers facilitated a gift drive to ensure 118 students and their families had a memorable Christmas. Several community sponsors made Operation Santa possible by donating toys, clothes and other gift items. Optimist Club members and their families delivered the gifts to the homes of our students. The Student Services Department greatly appreciates the partnership with the individuals and organizations that helped to provide such a joyous holiday for our students and families!

## 2022 Operation Santa Sponsors:

Optimist Club

Jimbo Farr

Jason Maxwell

Buzzell Heating & Air

Inspire Pilates Studio

Brandi Peaster

Harold Wilson Jr.

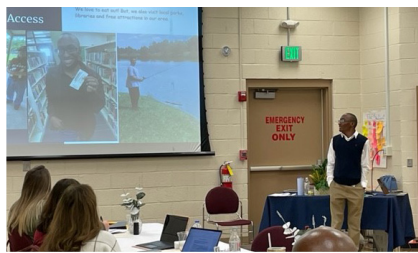
Braswell Family Dentistry



## COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES



The Georgia Learning Resource System (GLRS) coalition meeting for the RESA District of Special Education Directors and Administrators was held on Friday, December 2nd. This was the first time the meeting was hosted by our Transition Academy! Members of the coalition enjoyed breakfast and lunch prepared by the hard-working students of the Transition Academy. Lunch was followed by a student led presentation on *Life at the Transition Academy*. The presentation focused on the Vocational Training Skills, Independent Life Skills, and Community Access Skills the students are receiving while attending the Transition Academy. Coalition members were captivated with the student presenters! A huge THANK YOU to the teachers and students at the Transition Academy for a job well-done!



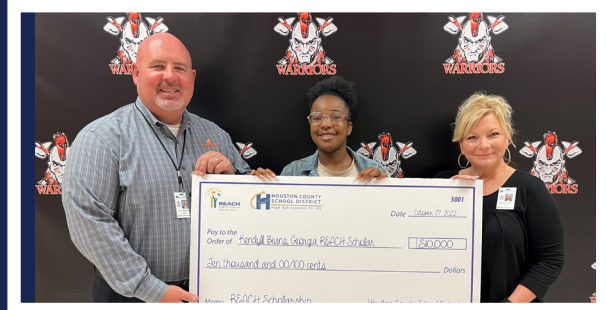
# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

**O**ur teacher in the spotlight this month is Rhonda Zellner from WIN Academy. Mrs. Zellner has taught for the past 16 years. A native of Dooly County, she has called Houston County home for over 20 years. Zellner earned a Bachelor's Degree from Mercer University, a Masters Degree from the University of West Alabama, a Specialist Degree in Education from Nova Southeastern University, and she is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree. When asked what challenges and rewards she has experienced teaching she shared, "Both challenges and rewards are an integral part of teaching. Challenges afford me the opportunity to grow professionally. Rewards afford me the opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. One of the biggest challenges I face is time. It is imperative to be flexible in rearranging plans and utilizing effective time management. I am charged with ensuring each of my students get the full educational and social experience of school that will contribute to their overall success. My rewards come from the reflections upon each of my students' faces as they learn new concepts, gain new knowledge, and take an active interest in their own learning. Knowing I am a difference maker in the life of a child is rewarding on a daily basis." Mrs. Zellner's passion is evident when discussing the calling of teaching in her life. "I AM a change agent! Teachers have both the opportunity and ability to make a difference in the lives of the students we are blessed to teach and enrich. Teaching is part of my ministry. I strive to treat each of my students as if they were my very own. I want my students to know they matter and can be whatever they choose to be in life. I model what I expect, and my motto is Respect. Teach. Love. Inspire." When asked to discuss life out of school, Mrs. Zellner stated "I am blessed to be a wife and mother. I have a wonderful husband, Walter, and three exceptionally brilliant, outgoing, and beautiful children, Icyana, DeMarco, and Justin". Away from school, you can find her enjoying non-fiction novels, cooking/baking, and attending church at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and is currently active with the local chapter (Warner Robins Alumnae Chapter) where they embody Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service. Houston County is proud to have a teacher with such passion and enthusiasm for her field and for our students!





Eight middle school students in Houston County have been named a Realizing Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholar and were awarded a \$10,000 scholarship. The REACH Georgia program provides support for students with academic promise, to help them successfully progress from middle school through college, with a goal of earning a degree. The students will receive the scholarship funds upon high school graduation. One student was selected from each of the District's eight middle schools. The 2022 REACH Scholars are: Thomson Middle: Torian Jackson; Perry Middle: Billy Ray; Northside Middle: Bianca Alcantar; Warner Robins Middle: Kendyll Bivins; Bonaire Middle: Elizabeth Tomberlin; Huntington Middle: Cecelia Crain; Feagin Mill Middle: TJ Wilson; and Mossy Creek Middle: Natalie Shanks.





The Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support (GAPBS) is a network of the National Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS; [apbs.org](http://apbs.org)). The purpose of the GAPBS network is to increase the visibility of positive behavior support in our state. The network aims to provide a collaborative statewide effort to disseminate positive behavior support practices. The network supports a range of interests by promoting PBS capacity building initiatives, promoting the use of positive practices, and promoting membership in the national APBS organization.

The GAPBS Conference returned December 8-9, 2022, as a face-to-face conference. This was the first time the conference has been face-to-face since 2019. In the past, our new Houston County PBIS schools were able to attend the conference together in Atlanta. However, our last new PBIS cohort was trained during the pandemic, so they were not able to attend until this school year. Houston County represented in large numbers. Teachers, administrators, and counselors from 11 Houston County schools were able to travel to Georgia State University. The 11 schools included Bonaire Elementary, Bonaire Primary, Houston County Career Academy, Houston County High School, Huntington Middle, Lake Joy Elementary, Lake Joy Primary, Northside Elementary, Perry Middle, Quail Run Elementary, and Warner Robins Middle School. All participants were able to attend a variety of sessions to obtain information and resources that will support our district.



## Special Education Teacher Induction

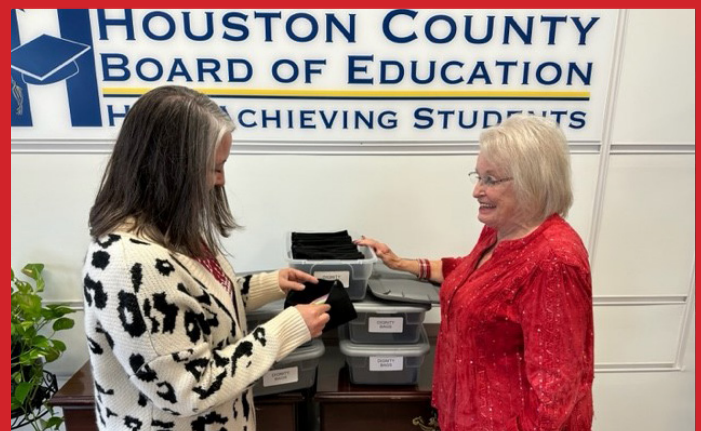
# High-Leverage Practices in Special Education



Thirty-two teachers participated in the fifth session of the Special Education Teacher Induction on December 13th. Dr. Karen Jones, Mrs. Daphne Whetsel, and Mrs. Cindy Harkins focused on “High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms”, in the second session of this two part series. Participants learned High Leverage Practices for supporting student learning. High Leverage Practices were developed in partnership with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Collaboration for Effective Educator Development (CEEDARS). Topics included practices in metacognitive strategies, scaffolding supports, explicit instruction, and providing constructive feedback. Teachers engaged in vital conversations regarding evidence based practices. Resources from this learning session, as well as additional professional development materials, were shared with participants through Google Classroom.



The Rotary Clubs of Byron, Centerville, Perry, and Warner Robins provided five boxes of “Dignity Bags” for our high schools to have on hand for female students. These boxes will be delivered to each high school counselors office next week. The kindness and thoughtfulness of this organization is appreciated by the Houston County School System.



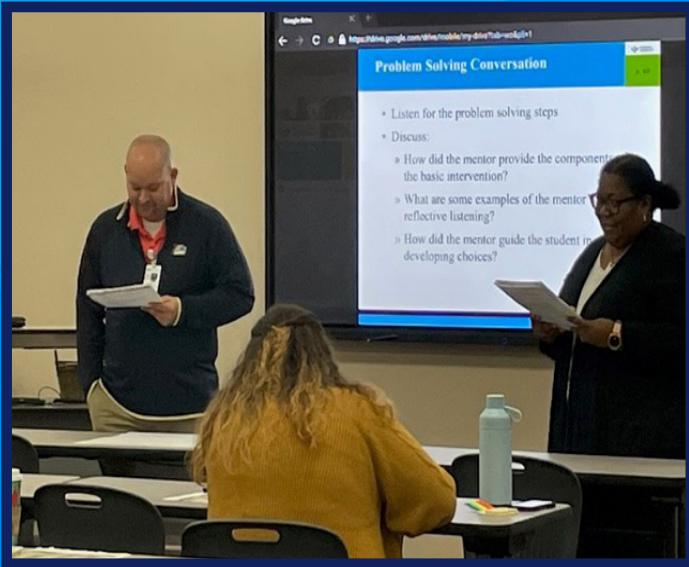




# Check & Connect

A comprehensive student engagement intervention

**M**iddle Georgia-GLRS hosted the Check & Connect two-day training for members of our Student Services Department. This training was held at the Houston County Schools Annex on November 29th & 30th. Check & Connect is a structured mentoring intervention to promote student success and engagement, which emphasizes school completion rather than dropout prevention. Check & Connect Mentors work to build relationships with students. Mentors use a systematic “Check” of relevant academic and behavioral data to “Connect” with students and design appropriate, immediate interventions. The program will be implemented throughout the district at each of our high schools.



# CHECK & CONNECT

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE LSSC!

Students at the Lindsey Student Support Center participated in a holiday door decorating contest this Merry Season. Door themes included: “Merry Grinchmas”, “Wishing You a Whole Latte Cheer”, and “A Wednesday Merry Christmas”. Celebrity judges Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Tangela Brice, and Jason Pinkney were treated to special treats and hot cocoa. The Grinch even made a special appearance! A Merry time was had by all, with “Merry Grinchmas” taking the grand prize!





**AAASP SPORTS PROGRAM**  
**2022-23 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL**  
**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., 1-7		<b>BYE WEEKEND</b>			
Sat., 1-14	V	Houston Sharks	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-14	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	Houston Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-14	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	JV	Atlanta Wolfpack	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Gwinnett Heat	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Gwinnett Heat	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	West Georgia Wolverines	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-21	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Sharks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-28	JV	Atlanta Wolfpack	@	Muscogee Lions	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-28	JV	Atlanta Wolfpack	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-28	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Muscogee Lions	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-28	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Clayton Eagles	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-4	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Atlanta Wolfpack	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-4	JV	Gwinnett Heat	@	Atlanta Wolfpack	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-4	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-4	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	Clayton Eagles	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-11	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Atlanta Wolfpack	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-11	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Gwinnett Heat	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-11	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Gwinnett Heat	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-11	V	Clayton Eagles	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-11	V	Houston Sharks	@	West Georgia Wolverines	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-18		<b>BYE WEEKEND</b>			
Sat., 2-25	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Houston Sharks	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-25	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	Clayton Eagles	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**AAASP/GHSA STATE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**JV DIVISION - TWO JUNIOR VARSITY SEMI-FINAL GAME**  
**ONE JUNIOR VARSITY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME**  
**TO BE HOSTED LOCALLY BY 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE IN STANDINGS**  
**AND HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

**VARSITY DIVISION - TWO VARSITY SEMI-FINAL GAMES TO BE PLAYED LOCALLY**  
**AND HOSTED BY 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE IN STANDINGS ON MARCH 4, 2023**

Rev. 11/16/22