



Student Services Board Report

Celebrating Occupational Therapy Month Through Partnership and Learning!

The Houston County School District is proud to partner with the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at Middle Georgia State University to support student learning and professional growth. Through this collaboration, OTA Fieldwork Level II students complete an eight-week internship within the school system.

During this experience, students observe, practice, and apply essential skills in school-based occupational therapy while working alongside experienced professionals. This hands-on training provides valuable real-world experience while supporting the important work being done for students across the district.

In recognition of Occupational Therapy Month, the Houston County Occupational Therapy Department celebrates the important role occupational therapy professionals play in helping students build the skills needed for success in school and everyday life.

This partnership strengthens workforce development and helps grow the next generation of occupational therapy professionals serving our community.

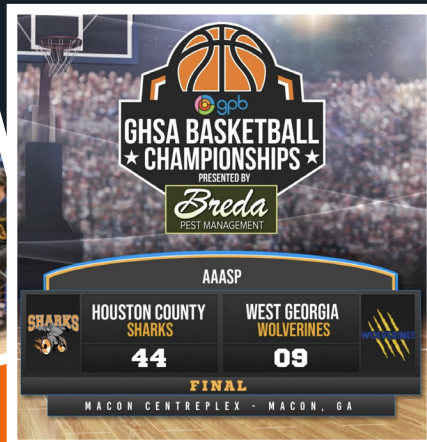


SHARKS

State Champions



The Houston County Sharks completed a perfect season in dominant fashion Saturday, defeating the West Georgia Wolverines 44–9 at the Macon Centreplex to claim the state championship. Undefeated at 7–0 entering the game, the Sharks took control early and never looked back, maintaining their lead from start to finish. The victory marks the program’s 43rd state title across all three sports, its 13th consecutive championship overall, and a fifth straight basketball state title—further solidifying the Sharks’ legacy of sustained excellence.



What's blooming at the LSSC?!

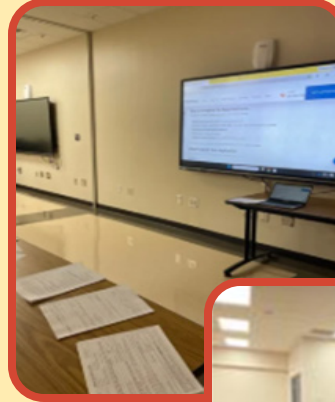
Local Leaders Take the Stage at The National Youth at Risk Conference!



From March 1–3, 2026, innovation and inspiration took center stage as representatives from the Lindsey Student Support Center and Houston County School District made a powerful impact at the National Youth At-Risk Conference. LSSC staff members Bonnie Brown and Erica Abram, alongside HCSD Social Worker Linda Walker, proudly presenting their work during a dynamic 90-minute session that spotlighted the district's forward-thinking initiatives, programs, and support services designed to uplift students and families. Their presentation didn't just inform—it sparked conversation. Attendees from across the country engaged in meaningful discussions, asked thoughtful questions, and showed strong interest in bringing similar resources to their own communities. Many participants even signed up for follow-up connections and future tours of the Lindsey Student Support Center. By sharing their success on a national platform, these local leaders are helping shine a light on the impactful work happening right here in the community—proving that big ideas can grow from strong local roots.

Helping Families Access Vital Care!

We were thrilled to host our Katie Beckett Medicaid Parent Workshop on March 5th & 14th! With the support of our amazing GA Parent Mentor, Marina Jones, and dedicated community members, parents received hands-on guidance in completing the Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver application. This workshop created a welcoming space where families could ask questions, get one-on-one help, and feel confident navigating the process. The Katie Beckett Waiver is such an important resource, helping children with significant medical needs access essential health care coverage—no matter their family's income.



Stitching Up Something Special!

Throughout March, creativity has been buzzing at the Youth Sewing Class held on March 5, 12, 19, and 26. Students in grades 4–12 have been threading their way into the world of sewing—and loving every minute of it! From learning the basics to mastering essential techniques, these young designers didn't just stop at practice—they put their new skills to work on a fun, hands-on project: crafting their very own drawstring tote bags. What makes these totes extra special? Each student added their own personal flair, transforming simple fabric into unique, one-of-a-kind creations that reflect their style and imagination.



National School Breakfast Week

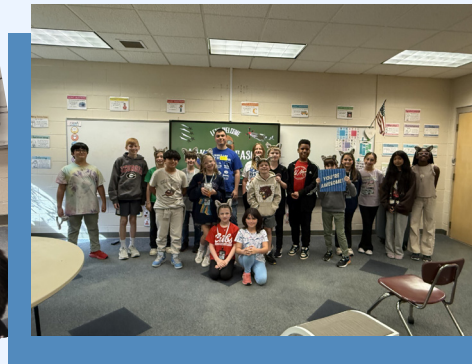


Busy school mornings can make it easy for students to skip breakfast—but starting the day with a nutritious meal is key to success. That’s why school breakfast is so important. Research consistently shows that students who enjoy a school breakfast experience better attendance, improved focus, and fewer behavioral challenges—giving them the boost they need to fully engage and learn.

This month, National School Breakfast Week invites students to embark on “The Quest for School Breakfast.” Just like any great adventure, a strong start is essential—and a hearty breakfast helps students fuel up for the day ahead. Thanks to the dedication of our nutrition staff, students are served meals that nourish both body and mind, empowering them to tackle the school day like true adventurers—no map or magic sword required.

Lakoda Gleason

Inspires Students at QRES



Students in the Partners Club at Quail Run Elementary are learning about physical and mental disabilities while exploring ways to build a more inclusive school community. As part of this effort, they welcomed guest speaker Lakoda, whose story left a lasting impression.

Lakoda, an autistic adult, shared his personal journey, describing the challenges he faced in school and the strategies that helped him succeed. He also spoke about how his diagnosis continues to shape his life today—and how he has learned to navigate those challenges with confidence. His message offered powerful insight and inspiration, giving students a deeper understanding of inclusion and acceptance.

MR. AND MS. SWEETHEART OF HOUSTON COUNTY PAGEANT

The Miss and Mr. Sweetheart of Houston County 2026 pageant took place March 21 at the Veterans High School auditorium, bringing together students, families, and community members for an afternoon of confidence and celebration.

Sixteen contestants participated, showcasing their individuality through various phases focused on stage presence and personal style. An optional talent portion, featuring 10 contestants, was a highlight of the event.

Payten Shepherd from Thomson Middle School was named Junior Miss Sweetheart of Houston County, Karrington Starks from Veterans High School was crowned Miss Sweetheart, and Sylvester Knight from Northside High School earned the title of Mr. Sweetheart.

