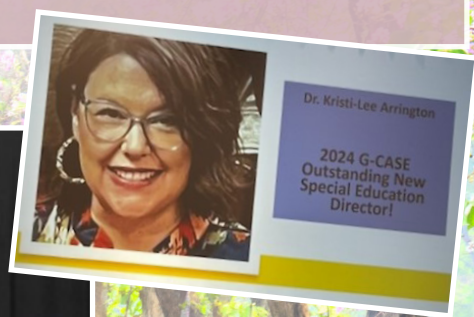


STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

HELLO April

Each year G-CASE presents the “Outstanding New Special Education Director Award” at their Spring Conference. This award recognizes a Director who has three or less years of experience, who has performed outstanding service, and who has earned the respect of stakeholders. The Outstanding New Special Education Director for 2023-2024 goes to Dr. Kristi-Lee Arrington! Dr. Arrington has earned the respect of teachers, students, parents, and fellow administrators. Her significant achievements across the field of educational leadership have made a tremendous impact on so many lives. Dr. Arrington is more than deserving of this prestigious award and Houston County School District is thankful for her service to our students and community!



Outstanding New Special Education Director

It's Time for a New Adventure *Zabrina Cannady*



Thank you, Dr. Cannady! Your significant achievements across the field of education have made a tremendous impact on so many lives!

You Will Be Missed!

Welcome Spring & Welcome Dr. Richard Woods

LET THE FLOWER'S BLOOM

The Student Services Leadership Team and the District's Executive Cabinet were exhilarated to host Georgia's Department of Education State Superintendent: Dr. Richard Woods, Associate Superintendent: Shaun Owen, and Family Engagement Specialist: Dawn Scott. The group toured the Lindsey Student Support Center, as well as presented awards to students from Warner Robins Middle School and Houston County's College & Career Academy for their participation in the "Cooking Up Academics" video contest.

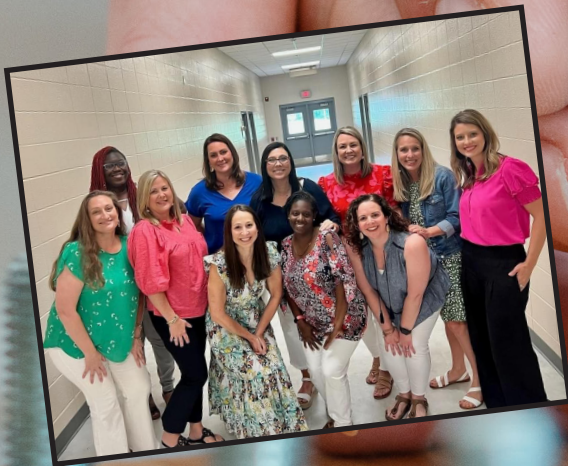
During the visit, Dr. Zabrina Cannady shared "Repurpose with a Purpose" renovations including the LSSC's Food Pantry, Resource Room, Sensory Room, Literacy Center, Training Spaces, Workshop Areas, and the most recent renovations for the Student/Community Innovation Rooms. Dr. Wood expressed his interest and gratitude in the tour by asking poignant questions which he related to specific projects ongoing throughout the state. He specifically referenced the ground-breaking work underway at LSSC, by stating "You are paving the way for district's across the state". Our students and District staff were excited and intrigued with the dialogue from our state representatives. We are so proud of the work being done at the Lindsey Student Support Center!



LSSC

CELEBRATE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH WITH US!

Occupational therapy assists individuals in performing necessary tasks through therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). This skill based therapy supports the student's ability to participate in school activities or occupations. This includes academic support and non-academic support. Occupational therapists collaborate within the educational team to provide supports and interventions for students to engage in school activities and achieve independence in the school setting. They may work on maintaining or improving functional joint motion needed during the school day such as putting on a coat or reaching for items in a locker. When needed, they work on the development of hand skills for functional writing, keyboarding, cutting, and buttoning. Occupational therapists fabricate splints to enable the student to perform educational tasks such as writing, eating, using a keyboard, or stabilization of work material. They recommend and assist with modifying seating or positioning on the school bus. An occupational therapist will promote safety within the school environment and modify playground equipment and common areas. Our occupational therapy team works hard for student success!



Houston County Board of Education Occupational Therapy Department team members: Leigh Ann Allen, Ansley Bailey, Danetta Hardy, Lauren Hatcher, Heather Mattox, Stephanie McCormick, Keshia Ragin, Amy Velazquez, and Lynn Whittle. The department currently serves over 300 students across the District! Thank you for your dedication!

Helping you live life to the fullest.

Partner's Prom

Houston County High School



Houston County High School hosted the Partner's Prom for students across the district. The theme for this year's prom was Masquerade. Decorations, lights, balloon arches, and flowers made the event extra special. 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. Teachers volunteer to help with planning and organizing this event. This special evening is always a night to remember.

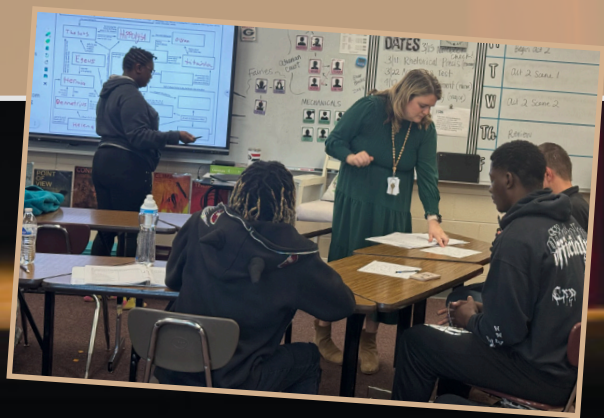


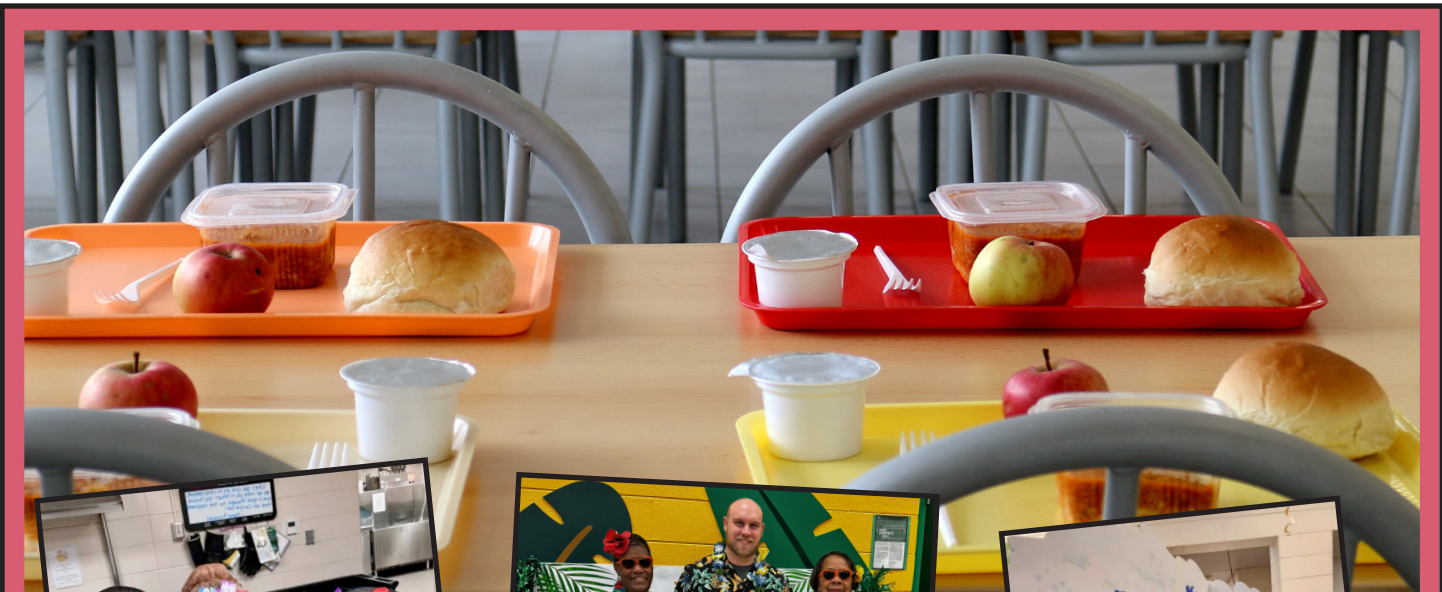
TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight shines on one of our "homegrown" teachers at Houston County High School. Mrs. Caroline Stout grew up in Houston County and is a proud product of our school system. As a student she attended David Perdue Elementary, Feagin Mill Middle, and Houston County High School. After completing her degree from the University of Georgia, she taught in Clarke County Schools before returning back to teach at her alma mater. Teaching was not Caroline's first career, but she shared that it has been her most fulfilling one. You could say teaching is in her blood. Her grandmother taught at Northside High School for the majority of her 35 year career, and her mother just retired from Houston County School system with 35 years of service! Mrs. Stout has been drawn to service and helping others since she was young. Her father was the director at Happy Hour Service Center for many years prior to his passing.

"My favorite thing about teaching is seeing the moments of growth happen. Whether big or small, these moments of growth are what makes teaching worth it. The administration and staff at HCHS are so supportive of my students and will take every opportunity to help them to succeed. The students also support each other and have empathy for each other. They have developed relationships with each other and push each other to exceed." In her free time, Mrs. Stout along with her husband and two girls, Emma and Allie, can be found balancing church activities, soccer practice, gymnastics, and family time. On Saturdays in the fall, you will find her at Sanford Stadium cheering on the Dawgs! The Stouts love to travel with their camper and enjoy spending time with their two dogs.

Our students are benefitting not only from Mrs. Stout's instruction but from her servant's heart. We are grateful that she chose to continue her family's legacy of improving the lives of young people in Houston County!





Start their day with a healthy meal!

This year we celebrated National School Breakfast week March 4th-8th. The theme was Surfs Up with School Breakfast! Houston County caught the wave and hung loose with Hawaiian themed outfits, interactive surfing backdrops, and coloring contests. Even our high schools got involved. Students loved joining in on all the fun and starting the day with full bellies and big smiles! Cowabunga, dude!

Community Garden

116th
Air Control
Wing

Airmen from the 116th Air Control Wing worked to get the LSSC Community Garden ready for spring planting. Along with our community partner Yosef's Coat Ministries, the 116th ACW repaired garden beds, pulled weeds, laid hay, and prepared compost for the 15 raised beds in the LSSC Community Garden.



The Spring Horticulture Class started in March and will continue through June. Students in grades 4th-12th will learn new skills such as planting, composting, harvesting food, as well as how to build a sustainable food garden. Members of the community will also be invited to reserve family plots where they can plant and harvest their own vegetables to help combat food insecurity.



LSSC



Woodlands Coffee Roasters & Cafe

Transition Academy

Woodlands Coffee Roasters & Cafe opened their doors to the Transition Academy. Students learned about the history of The Orphanage Coffee Project. The Slade family adopted a malnourished 12 year old boy from Orphanage Emmanuel in Quaimaca, Honduras.

Through the compassionate partnership of a local Honduran farmer, Mr. Miyagi, the Slade family planted a portion of their woodland's coffee crop at their son's former orphanage. Mr. Miyagi trains the apprentice at his coffee plantation. These classrooms provide the youth of Orphanage Emmanuel an invaluable education in "all the ways of coffee". The Orphanage Coffee Project teaches youth a trade which will enable them to break the chains of generational poverty. These apprentices will be equipped to support both themselves and their families. They are learning how to grow their futures, create hope, and build dreams. Thank you Woodlands Coffee Roasters & Cafe for partnering with our students and sharing your story.



BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The JV Sharks are the 2024 State Basketball Champions! Our JV Sharks defeated Georgia Storm in the semi-final round winning 34-8. They defeated the Peach County Trojans winning 28-24 to bring home the championship! We are so proud of our JV Sharks!



The Varsity Sharks are the 2024 State Basketball Champions! Our Varsity Sharks defeated the Clayton County Eagles winning 35-16 to bring home the championship! This is their 37th combined State Championship since 2007. Way to go Varsity Sharks!

HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS

TRANSITION ACADEMY *SPORTS HALL OF FAME*



Students at the Transition Academy toured the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame this month located in Macon, Georgia. The Sports Hall of Fame is the country's largest state sports museum. It houses over 3,000 artifacts and encompasses 43,000 square feet. From the old style ticket booths to the brick columns in the rotunda, students had the amazing opportunity to experience the history of sports in Georgia.

