

HOUSTON COUNTY EDUCATION

ASSISTANCE FUND

Established by Dr. & Mrs. Shah





"The honors programs and Advanced Placement in the Houston County School District offer motivated students unique opportunities to further their education. These programs have been extremely successful over the years and have produced a countless number of outstanding students. From the sciences to the humanities, dedicated teachers have been paramount in the success of these advanced classes. To further promote and facilitate the opportunities that

advanced classes offer students, we wish to provide additional funds...to enhance classroom opportunities and support dedicated educators..."

Dr. & Mrs. Shah

2024 DR. SHAH GRANT RECEPTION

Welcome

*Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of
Houston County School District*

Introduction of Guest of Honor

*Dr. Elgin Mayfield, Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning*

Guest of Honor

Dr. Manoj Shah

Presentation of Shah Family Grant Recipients

*Ms. Olethia Thomas, Director of Gifted Education
High School Recognitions
Middle School Recognitions*

Elementary School Remarks of Appreciation

Mrs. Kelly Munn, Parkwood Elementary School Principal

'Thank you' Presentation & Closing Remarks

Dr. Mark Scott and Ms. Olethia Thomas

*****Light refreshments will be served following the program.*****

FY25 Shah Grant Recipients

School	FY25 Recipients		Administrator(s)	
HCHS	Mrs. Lyndsay Cumpton	Ms. Leah Daughtry	Mr. Harrison Ivins	Dr. Jay Jones & Mrs. Trinity Rawlins
NHS	Mrs. Tristian Barronton	Mrs. Jamie Reiter	Ms. Joi Wright	Dr. Dusty Dykes
PHS	Mrs. Tiffany Frank	Dr. Lindsey Gentry	Dr. Courtney Herbert	Mr. Del Martin & Mrs. Nicole Stone
VHS	Mr. Matt Boone	Mrs. Kristi Cannon	Mrs. Lesley Murkerson	Dr. Amy Barbour & Mrs. Ashley Brock
WRHS	Mrs. Susan Custer	Mr. Louis Leskosky	Mrs. Kara Waite	Mr. Chris McCook & Mrs. Shelley Holmes

School	FY25 Recipients		Administrator(s)
BMS	Mrs. Jalanda Goff	Mrs. Marla Hutchens	Mrs. Rebecca Oakley & Mrs. Elizabeth Foster
FMMS	Ms. Julie Ash	Mrs. Kaitlin Rainey	Mr. Matt Topping
HMS	Ms. Kelly Harris	Mr. Timothy Olson	Mrs. Tamara Wildes
MCMS	Ms. Jennifer Ham	Mrs. Heather Schmanski	Dr. Jody Dean & Mrs. Kelly Sharp
NMS	Mrs. Alicia Boarts	Mrs. Leslie Clark	Dr. Alma Mundy & Mrs. Trathenia Evans
PMS	Mrs. Jessica Hayes	Mr. Tim Hutchens	Dr. Christie Wall
TMS	Ms. Nicole Leary	Ms. Pamela Postell	Dr. Jami Moore
WRMS	Mr. Kevin Mitchell	Mrs. Mary Winters	Mrs. Brandy Farrell

School	FY25 Recipients	Administrator(s)	School	FY25 Recipients	Administrator(s)
BES	Dr. Michelle Koehle	Dr. Tonya Pinckley	MAES	Mrs. Peaches Tankersley	Dr. VaRee Harrell
BPS	Mrs. Michelle Sargent	Mrs. Ashley Watkins	MAPS	Mrs. Kristen Erickson	Ms. Alicia Conner & Mrs. Brandi McIntyre
CBWP	Mrs. Erin Flanders	Mrs. Monique Dawsey	MES	Ms. Rheanna West	Dr. Dana Brock & Dr. Katina Gibson
CES	Mrs. Tiffany Coder	Ms. Bridget Snooks	MSES	Ms. Courtney Curles	Dr. Kasandra King
DPES	Mrs. Amy Stone	Mrs. Tiana Johnson	NES	Mrs. Stacy Brown	Mr. David Sams & Dr. Kristina Cummings
DPPS	Mrs. Hollie Aaron	Mrs. Kathy Gibbs & Mrs. Keturia Williams	PWES	Mrs. Sara McMahon	Mrs. Kelly Munn & Mrs. Amanda Bennett
ESES	Ms. Rebecca Leonard	Dr. Jeff Washington & Mrs. Stephanie King	PSES	Mrs. Alexis Alexander	Mrs. Gloria Smith & Mrs. Jessica Teemer
HES	Ms. Katelin Geiger	Dr. Ovedia Glover & Mrs. Dara Seamans	QRES	Mrs. Kim Pellegrino	Dr. Amanda Miliner
KCES	Mrs. Kelli Barnes	Mrs. Shelley Shillcutt & Mrs. Kalesia McKnight	RES	Dr. Amanda Hunnell	Mr. William Wilson & Mrs. Heather Henslee
LJES	Mrs. Ashleigh Edwards	Dr. Tami Godman & Dr. Sandra Crow	SHES	Mrs. Crystal Walker	Mrs. Kristen Brooks & Mrs. Charlotte Dunlap
LJPS	Mrs. Sabrina Hall	Dr. Sonya Kiefer & Mrs. Morgan Aeschlimann	TES	Ms. Holly Owen	Mrs. Eddie Williams
LRES	Mrs. Alicia Graham	Mrs. Kyon Cobb & Dr. Erin Gramley	WES	Ms. Michelle Feldmeier	Mrs. Angienik Allen & Dr. Artia Shorter
LRPS	Mrs. Melanie Shellong	Dr. Kelly Rush & Mrs. Kayla Shumway			



Houston County High School

Dr. Jay Jones, Principal
Mrs. Trinity Rawlins, API



Mrs. Lyndsay Cumpton

Mrs. Cumpton teaches Honors Biology and AP Biology at Houston County High School. Mrs. Cumpton creates a welcoming classroom environment for her students. She sets high expectations for her students and supports them throughout the process of mastering the concepts in Honors and AP Biology. On the Biology End of Course Test, 92% of Mrs. Cumpton's Honors Biology students were considered Proficient or Distinguished learners.

Ms. Leah Daughtry

Miss Daughtry teaches Honors Algebra 2 at HCHS. She creates an environment where students understand the learning process will be riddled with struggles, reflection, and continuous improvement, while the end result is often more than the student initially felt capable of. Students know that Miss Daughtry will support them along the way, which leads students to be willing to take greater risks and work towards a higher level of expectation.



Mr. Harrison Ivins

Mr. Ivins, while early in his teaching career, shows a deep understanding of both content knowledge and what students need to be successful. He is patient and supportive of his students while maintaining a rigorous classroom with high expectations. Mr. Ivins genuinely cares about his students and their success both inside and outside of the classroom. Mr. Ivins has been instrumental in bringing back Mock Trial to HCHS.

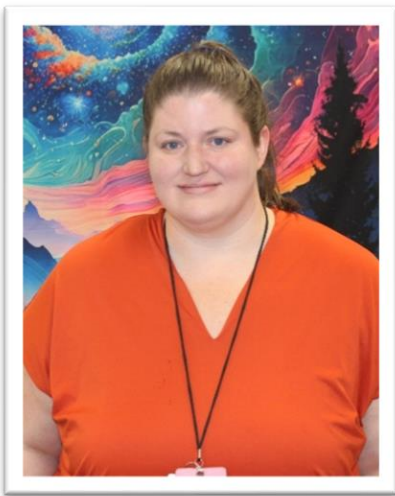




Northside High School
Dr. Dustin Dykes, Principal
Mrs. Jenny Gutshall, API

Mrs. Tristian Barronton

Mrs. Barronton is a spirited and hard-working teacher of AP Environmental Science. She is a lifelong learner, and she studies hard to inspire her students to be the same. She says she wants her students to lead the way in environmentalism. She wants students to see Environmental Science as more than just a class to put on their transcripts and to truly get involved in the science that is around us every day. She loves giving students fun and out-of-the-box labs and other hands-on activities, such as Air Pollutants Speed Dating and her upcoming field trip to Rock Eagle to analyze freshwater life and water quality. Mrs. Barronton wants students to get out into the environment and learn why it is something we need to protect.



Mrs. Jamie Reiter

Mrs. Reiter is Northside's AP Psychology teacher. She has taught Psychology for a number of years and has been amping up what she learned teaching regular Psychology to stretch the minds of her AP students. She loves the passion she sees Northside AP students develop for Psychology and their intrinsic motivation to learn more. She helps students to apply their knowledge in fun ways, such as with a Zombie Brain Menu and a Senses and Perception Carnival. Students also learn human development with the Egg Baby project. Mrs. Reiter is a nurturing teacher who wants her students to experience success inside and outside of the classroom. She is glad to be part of the NHS AP Program and wants to see the program flourish and grow.

Ms. Joi Wright

Ms. Wright is the AP PreCalculus teacher at Northside. She says her favorite part about teaching is watching students grow an appreciation for mathematics throughout the year, and she loves watching students understand complex mathematical concepts they initially thought were too complicated to grasp. She wants to grow problem solvers and critical thinkers. As one of our PBIS leads, Ms. Wright is always thinking about how she can get students learning and having fun at the same time. Sage and Scribe is a strategy she employs where one student sages and the other scribes as they solve a problem. This helps the students to learn math concepts and also to strengthen their communication skills. Last Spring she inspired her students in an AP Pep Rally called "Strive for a Five." She loves teaching students who are highly motivated and have grand plans for their lives. She feels honored to be a stepping stone in their success.





Mrs. Tiffany Frank

Mrs. Frank teaches AP Statistics and Honors Geometry and is the Math Department Chair at Perry High School. She is also a member of the school's Guiding Coalition team and is the prayer club sponsor. Her Statistics pass rate increased this year by 10.7% with 94.9% of her students scoring a three or higher. Her students outperformed the global percentage by 33.1% and Georgia by 31.3% with 11 students scoring a five on the exam. She is extremely reflective in her teaching and continually seeks out new and innovative best practices to help her students succeed. Mrs. Frank brings caring, understanding, and consistency to Perry High School and is a team player in all that she does. She is always willing to give a helping hand, and her calm demeanor and level head make her an outstanding leader.

Dr. Lindsey Gentry

Dr. Gentry teaches Algebra 1, AP Precalculus, and AP Calculus at Perry High School. She is also a member of the school's Guiding Coalition team, a Beta Club Sponsor, a Math Team Coach, and a PLT lead. Ninety-three-point-three percent of Dr. Gentry's AP Precalculus students scored a three or higher on the AP exam. Her students outperformed the global percentage by 17.7% and Georgia by 13.2% with twelve students scoring a five on the exam. Dr. Gentry is an amazing classroom teacher and helps her students to see math in ways that no other teacher can. Students love her class and work hard for her to achieve at levels they did not know they could reach.



Dr. Courtney Herbert

Dr. Courtney Herbert teaches DE Sociology, AP World History, and AP Psychology, and is the Social Studies Department Chair, and PLT Lead. She is also a member of the School's Guiding Coalition, a PBIS Coach, and the basketball bookkeeper and timekeeper. Seventy-nine-point-five percent of her students scored a three or higher on the AP exam. Her students outperformed the global percentage by 15.8% and Georgia by 10.2% with six students scoring a five on the exam. Dr. Herbert builds amazing relationships with students enabling them to learn difficult concepts in her social studies classroom. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and mentors the teachers in her department to build an atmosphere of teamwork and determination.





Veterans High School
Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal
Mrs. Ashley Brock, API

Mr. Matthew Boone

Mr. Boone is a middle Georgia native who graduated from Warner Robins High School in 1997. He earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Georgia Southern University and his Ed.S. from Walden University. Additionally, he holds certifications in gifted education, AP World History, AP US History, and Teacher Leadership. In his first-year teaching APUSH at VHS, his students performed remarkably. Out of 58 students who tested, 93.1% "passed" (earned a 3 or higher) compared to the state passing average of 75.%. Even more impressive, 50% of his students earned 5's, while another 19% earned 4's. Current senior Judd Perdue was in back-to-back courses with Mr. Boone (AP World History and AP US History). Of Mr. Boone's class, he said, "He made history exciting and interesting with his teaching style. His enthusiasm made us all look forward to lessons and really helped us get into the subject. What really stood out was how Mr. Boone explained historical events. He used stories, videos, and fun projects that made the material easy to understand and remember. The way he taught made the material difficult to forget and helped almost everyone in his class do well on the AP exams. If any student asks me, I always recommend any student to take his class."



Mrs. Kristi Cannon

Mrs. Cannon attended Armstrong Atlantic State University on a basketball scholarship where she earned a B.S. in Health and Physical Education. She went on to obtain her M.Ed. in Science Education from Georgia College and State University and her Ed.S. in Secondary Science Education from Valdosta State University. She has been at VHS for 10 years now and is the current science department chair and Science Olympiad sponsor. Mrs. Cannon teaches AP Physics, a very rigorous AP course, and her students fared very well against the rest of the state. Their average score was a 2.71 compared to the state average of 2.46, and they boasted a 50% pass rate, compared to the state's 43.4% pass rate. Senior Calleigh Whitman said that "Mrs. Cannon is an asset to Veterans High School because, not only does she invest in her students, but she also allows us to invest in ourselves. She always wanted to know about our extracurriculars. Anything we would talk about in our free time, she'd jump in and start asking more about it. In my eyes, Mrs. Cannon tried to make it hard to fail. In Mrs. Cannon's class, I was able to look back and identify my own mistakes and learn how to prevent them from happening again. This skill that I and many others have been taught is one million times more valuable than a red X on a page could ever be."



Mrs. Lesley Murkerson

Mrs. Murkerson joined the VHS math department in 2019, and she is embarking on her third-year teaching AP Statistics. She earned her B.A. in Sociology from Valdosta State University, her M.Ed. in Middle Grades Mathematics from Georgia Southwestern State University, and her Ed.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from Valdosta State University. Her students' scores have improved every year, and this was no exception; the average score was a 3.15 compared to the state score of 2.98, and her students passed at a rate of 75.6% compared to the state's 63.6% pass rate. Additionally, enrollment in AP Statistics has increased in her tenure, adding a full class for two years. Junior Annie White said, "Mrs. Murkerson is one of those teachers who leaves an impact on who you are and how you view learning. Without fail, she dedicated herself to preparing us for our AP exam, and, throughout that process, she instilled within us a curiosity and a passion that guided us towards reaching our full potential." Junior Brooke VanDalinda added, "Mrs. Murkerson is one of the most dedicated teachers I've encountered at Veterans High School. Every day, I knew I'd be walking into a class where she'd have a relevant and hands-on practice of AP Statistics waiting for us. She answered every question I had, and often went out of her way to do research on her own time so she could give me an in-depth answer."





Warner Robins High School

Mr. Chris McCook, Principal

Mrs. Shelley Holmes, API

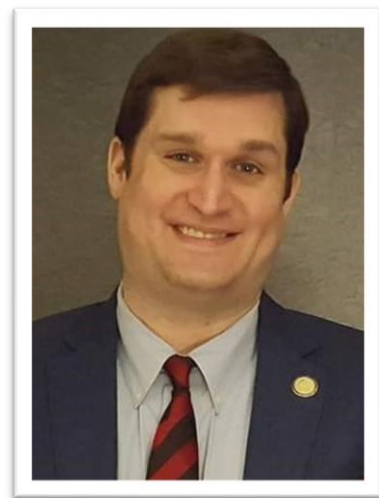


Mrs. Susan Custer

Mrs. Custer is in her 11th year of teaching and her 7th at WRHS. Currently, she teaches AP Literature, honors and traditional 10th Literature, and yearbook. Mrs. Custer strives to be a champion for honors and AP students to stretch their boundaries and excel. She assists her students in acquiring college acceptances while imparting skills in her classes that will see them thrive at those universities and beyond. She fosters and reinigorates a lifelong love of reading through her pedagogy, classroom resources, and personal passion for literature. She models her belief that stories are a reflection of the world around us, and often allow us to understand ourselves more fully. She endeavors to create a cooperative and engaging classroom environment that allows students' creativity and critical thinking to flourish.

Mr. Louis Leskosky

Mr. Leskosky is in his 17th year of teaching, all of which have been at Warner Robins High School. Mr. Leskosky has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Duke University, 2003; a Juris Doctor, University of Georgia School of Law, 2006; and a Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Studies History Concentration, Georgia College and State University, 2008. Mr. Leskosky enjoys teaching in both the English/Language Arts and Social Studies departments at Warner Robins High School, teaching AP Art History (Humanities,) Honors 9th Grade Literature, AP US Government, and AP European History. Additionally, Mr. Leskosky has served as the WRHS Gifted Lead Teacher since 2015, as well as coaching the Quiz Bowl Team, founding the Lego Club, and sponsoring the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society. He has been selected as the WRHS Star Teacher on four occasions, representing the county in 2016, and was the county Gifted Teacher of the Year in 2013. He was named the DAR Outstanding Teacher of US History for the state of Georgia in 2023.



Mrs. Kara Waite

Kara Waite has been teaching for over a decade, beginning her career in Michigan and continuing in North Carolina before landing in Warner Robins, Georgia. This is her fourth year at Warner Robins High School where she has taught AP chemistry, honors chemistry, and environmental science. Mrs. Waite also serves her school as a member of the Guiding Coalition and as the advisor for Culture Club. Mrs. Waite believes every student is a scientist and enjoys the challenge of getting students excited about science and discovering new problem-solving skills. As a lifelong learner, she encourages students to delve deeper into concepts and reach beyond the face value of the lesson. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the "ah ha!" moment with a student after he or she has been struggling with a concept and masters it. She hopes to continue to grow as a teacher by discovering new teaching techniques and creating lessons that foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



Bonaire Middle School
Mrs. Rebecca Oakley, Principal
Mrs. Elizabeth Foster, API

Mrs. Jalanda Goff

Mrs. Goff currently serves as an 8th Grade gifted Physical Science teacher at Bonaire Middle School. With 22 years of experience, including 12 years in gifted education, Mrs. Goff is a dedicated educator who excels in teaching gifted students. Her passion for science is evident in her engaging classroom, where she maximizes student interest and promotes intellectual curiosity. She encourages a love for inquiry that inspires creativity and innovation. Under her guidance, her gifted science students have achieved remarkable success. Ms. Goff sets high expectations while creating a positive learning environment, empowering students to think critically and outside the box. Ms. Goff serves as the Academic Bowl coach, inspiring students to further enhance their critical thinking skills. Her collaborative spirit and willingness to support fellow teachers demonstrates her commitment to our mission of excellence in academics and character.



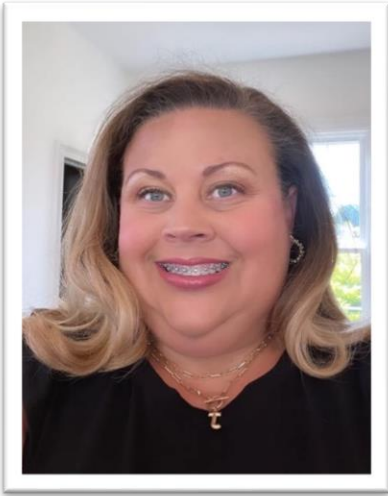
Mrs. Marla Hutchens

Mrs. Hutchens is an exceptional educator who has served as an 8th grade gifted Algebra I teacher at Bonaire Middle School (BMS) for 6 years, bringing a total of 10 years of experience in education. As a member of the PBIS team, she actively contributes to developing a positive learning environment throughout our school. Her deep knowledge of the 8th grade mathematics curriculum allows her to deliver content effectively while developing real-world connections that maximize student interest and promote intellectual curiosity. By setting high expectations for her students, Mrs. Hutchens creates an engaging classroom atmosphere that nurtures innovation and creativity, leading to high levels of student achievement and success. She consistently goes above and beyond to help all students reach their full potential, making a significant positive impact on the gifted program and students at BMS.





Feagin Mill Middle School
Mr. Mark Sams, Principal
Mr. Matthew Topping, API



Ms. Julie Ash

Ms. Ash is a dynamic teacher here at Feagin Mill. With 22 years of experience, Ms. Ash has firmly established herself as a cornerstone of our English Language Arts (ELA) department.

Ms. Ash currently serves as the 7th grade gifted ELA teacher and the 7th grade PLT Lead, roles in which she consistently demonstrates her passion for teaching and her commitment to academic excellence. Her ability to gather and analyze data to inform her instructional decisions ensures that every lesson is tailored to meet the diverse needs of her students.

Beyond her academic contributions, Ms. Ash is known for her remarkable ability to engage and relate to all students. Her dynamic teaching style and empathetic approach create a classroom environment where every student feels valued and motivated to achieve their full potential.

In addition to her classroom responsibilities, Ms. Ash also takes on the role of cheer coach and academic team coach, further exemplifying her commitment to making

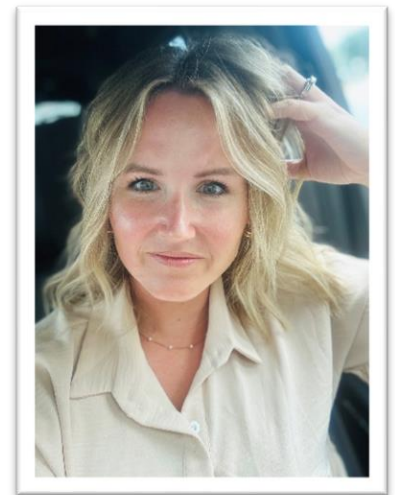
positive impacts on her students' lives. Through coaching, she inspires her students to excel not only academically but also personally, fostering their growth and development in all areas.

Ms. Ash's contributions to our school and the broader educational community are truly invaluable. Her dedication, expertise, and passion for teaching make her an asset to Feagin Mill.

Mrs. Kaitlin Rainey

Mrs. Rainey is vital to the success of our math department at Feagin Mill. Mrs. Rainey stands out as a remarkable math teacher with a unique talent for making complex concepts accessible and understandable to all her students. Her ability to break down difficult mathematical ideas into easy-to-understand components is a testament to her deep understanding of the subject and her dedication to student learning. Mrs. Rainey's calm and patient demeanor creates a safe and supportive classroom environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and exploring new ideas without the fear of failure. This nurturing atmosphere encourages students to engage deeply with the material and develop a genuine interest in mathematics.

What truly sets Mrs. Rainey apart is her commitment to ensuring that her students do more than just memorize math facts—they truly understand them. She fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills, empowering her students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Her teaching goes beyond the textbook, preparing students to succeed not only in their current studies but in their future academic and professional endeavors.



Mrs. Rainey's dedication to her students and her craft makes her an invaluable asset to our school and the broader educational community. She is an exemplary educator who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure her students' success.



Huntington Middle School
Dr. Marlon Robinson, Principal
Mrs. Tamara Wildes, API

Ms. Kelly Harris

In her second year at Huntington, and her sixth-year teaching Math, Ms. Harris continues in her daily quest to encourage, motivate, and challenge her students. Ms. Harris takes pride in showing students the wonder of extracting answers from seemingly difficult questions and the beauty of using mathematical concepts to find solutions. She transforms mathematics from a series of numbers and equations into a dynamic, engaging adventure that empowers students to embrace mathematical challenges and discoveries. Ms. Harris understands that students learn differently and adapts her teaching methods to make mathematics come alive. For example, instead of just reviewing mathematical units for tests, recently she assigned mathematical units to student groups and each group created a board game based on the unit they were assigned. The groups developed the game rules and created the game board and pieces. Ms. Harris is a valuable member of Huntington's teaching staff and an asset to the field of education.



Mr. Timothy Olson

Mr. Olson is in his third year teaching Social Studies at Huntington Middle School. Mr. Olson is dedicated to ensuring that his students appreciate the past, understand the present, and have a positive impact on the future. Mr. Olson shows learners the relevance and applicability of social studies topics to their daily lives and includes relevant activities to spark personal connections and motivation to learn. He encourages the exploration of ideas and opposing viewpoints and helps students develop an understanding of the differing perspectives necessary for civic life and global citizenship. Mr. Olson continually seeks professional development and collaborative opportunities that will allow him to grow professionally. He serves as a Team Leader, PLT Leader, and is Huntington's Social Studies school-wide department chairperson. Mr. Olson is also a member of Huntington's Committed Hawks Leadership and PBIS team.





Mossy Creek Middle School

Dr. Jody Dean, Principal

Mrs. Kelly Sharp, API



Ms. Jennifer Ham

Ms. Ham started her teaching career at Houston County High School where she taught math for five years. For the past ten years, she has taught accelerated and sixth grade math at Mossy Creek Middle School. She has received numerous awards and grants, such as My Teacher is Tops (2016-2017), STEM Team of the Year Award (2017), Air and Space Forces Association Teacher of the Year (2022), and was a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow State Finalist. She serves as a team leader at Mossy Creek and is part of the Guiding Coalition. She is passionate about making math relevant to students through real-world applications so that learning is more engaging and meaningful. Ms. Ham enjoys sharing what she has learned with other teachers and has presented many times at conferences and teacher trainings.

Mrs. Heather Schmanski

Mrs. Schmanski graduated from Valdosta State University in 2002 with a BA in History. In 2021, she graduated from Piedmont University with a Master of Arts degree in middle grades education. She began her teaching career in 2005 at Feagin Mill Middle School but transferred to Mossy Creek Middle when the school opened. She has been blessed to teach her passion, social studies, for the past 18 years. The 2024-2025 school year marks the beginning of her 19th year as an educator. Mrs. Schmanski serves as social studies department chair at Mossy Creek and is an active member of the guiding coalition.





Northside Middle School
Dr. Alma Mundy, Principal
Mrs. Trathenia Evans, API

Mrs. Alicia Boarts

Mrs. Alicia Boarts is an exceptional social studies teacher with over 11 years of dedicated experience. For the past three years, Mrs. Boarts has specialized in teaching gifted students; her ability to challenge and engage these bright minds is truly remarkable. Mrs. Boarts employs innovative teaching methods that not only stimulate intellectual curiosity but also encourage critical thinking and a love for learning.

In addition to her teaching prowess, Mrs. Boarts is a respected colleague and a mentor to other educators. She actively serves on the PBIS Leadership Team, Guiding Coalition and Jet Leadership Team. Additionally, as the 6th Grade Social Studies PLT lead, she consistently facilitates a well-organized meeting and shares resources and strategies weekly. Mrs. Boarts' passion for social studies and dedication to professional growth are evident in her continuous pursuit of new knowledge and teaching strategies.

What Mrs. Boarts enjoys most about teaching gifted students is their curiosity about the world around them. They challenge her to become a better teacher to engage them. We are truly lucky to have Mrs. Boarts at the best school in the land, Northside Middle School.



Mrs. Leslie Clark

Mrs. Leslie Clark is an outstanding math teacher with an impressive 19 years of experience. Over the course of her career, Mrs. Clark has consistently demonstrated a profound dedication to nurturing a deep understanding and love for mathematics among her students.

For the past eight years, Mrs. Clark has taught gifted students, and her impact has been extraordinary. She employs innovative teaching techniques that not only stimulate intellectual curiosity but also foster critical thinking. Mrs. Clark strives to make mathematical concepts accessible and engaging. She has a unique ability to connect abstract concepts to real-world applications, making the subject matter relevant for students. Mrs. Clark does a great job providing personalized guidance and encouragement that helps every student excel.

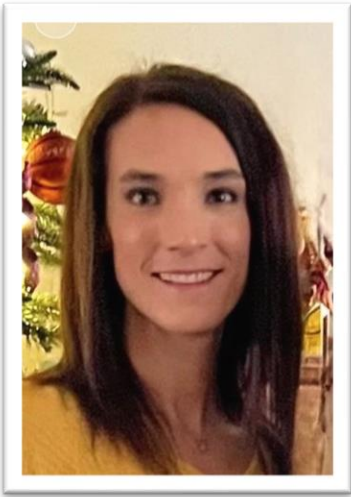
In addition to her teaching excellence, Mrs. Clark actively serves on the PBIS Leadership Team and Guiding Coalition. She also serves as a sponsor for NMS' Beta Club.

What Mrs. Clark enjoys most about teaching gifted students is helping them think outside the box through hands-on, real-life activities. We are truly lucky to have Mrs. Clark at the best school in the land, Northside Middle School.





Perry Middle School
Dr. Heath Burch, Principal
Dr. Christie Wall, API

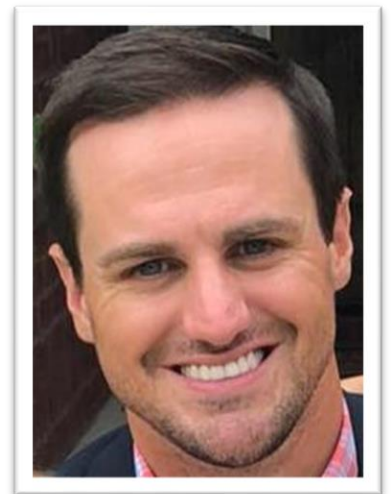


Mrs. Jessica Hayes

Jessica Hayes has been teaching for 9 years, and this is her second year as Perry Middle's seventh-grade honors Social Studies teacher. She also serves as department chair and seventh-grade Social Studies lead. Ms. Hayes works diligently to bring Social Studies to life by incorporating primary and secondary sources, multimedia and other technology, and interactive lessons. She has high expectations for students and works hard to support her students in achieving those expectations. Ms. Hayes is a vital part of leading our literacy work at Perry Middle – encouraging and challenging her colleagues as well as her students. Ms. Hayes believes in being a continual learner herself, and she is currently working on her specialist in curriculum and instruction from Piedmont University.

Mr. Tim Hutchens

Tim Hutchens has been teaching for 17 years, and he's taught our seventh-grade honors science at Perry Middle School for 15 years. Coach Hutchens engages students in many activities to help make his Life Science class an authentic learning experience. He also works hard to build a positive learning environment where students are encouraged to explore science through varying methods. Coach Hutchens guides and mentors students through the process of developing science fair projects. Through his leadership, Perry Middle has seen many regional winners. Coach Hutchens has served as one of the Committee Chairmen for the Houston Regional Science and Engineering Fair, and in 2023, he won the Inspiring Excellence Award for having the most regional winners.





Thomson Middle School
Dr. Scott Wynn, Principal
Dr. Jami Moore, API

Ms. Nicole Leary

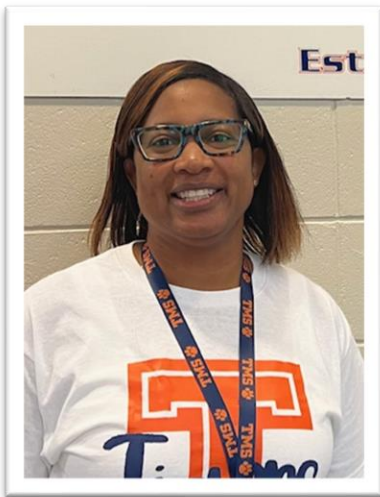
Ms. Leary has taught at Thomson Middle School for the past nine years. For the last three years, she has focused on nurturing and challenging the intellectual curiosity of gifted students in the science program—a role that has allowed her to innovate and inspire growth in her students.

In her role, she implements a curriculum that not only deepens students' understanding of scientific concepts but also encourages them to apply their knowledge creatively. Her students delve into the intricacies of the scientific method, where students learn to identify variables, form hypotheses, and conduct rigorous experiments. One of her favorite hands-on projects is the "Shipwrecked Pirate" experiment, which engages students in problem-solving and critical thinking.

A cornerstone of the Gifted Science program is preparing students for the science fair. Ms. Leary guides her students through the entire process—from selecting a topic that ignites their passion to conducting the research and applying the scientific method. The science fair project is a culminating experience that showcases her students' analytical skills and dedication.

Once students receive approval for their science fair topics, they continue their work at home while Ms. Leary focuses on advancing their understanding of key 7th-grade science standards in the classroom. Her students explore complex topics, such as the interactions of cell organelles necessary for survival, and the application of Punnett Squares to understand genetic diversity. As the science fair approaches, the pace of learning intensifies, and Ms. Leary works closely with students to ensure they meet the heightened rigor of the program.

Ms. Leary consistently strives to make the Gifted Science program a place where students are challenged, grow, and most importantly, enjoy the learning process.



Ms. Pamela Postell

Ms. Postell has shared that teaching gifted students at Thomson Middle School has been both a rewarding and challenging experience. She has had the privilege of working with some of the most intelligent and creative minds, and building relationships with these exceptional students, which comes naturally. In Ms. Postell's classroom, she strives to provide an environment that is not only intellectually rigorous but also supportive of students' personal growth. Ms. Postell's students are encouraged to push their boundaries, develop perseverance, and take ownership of their learning. This approach not only challenges them academically but also fosters a strong sense of responsibility and resilience that will serve them well beyond the classroom.



Warner Robins Middle School

Dr. Brett Wallace, Principal

Mrs. Brandy Farrell, API



Mr. Kevin Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell has a gift for making history and culture engaging and meaningful. He transforms lessons into immersive experiences, using storytelling, multimedia, and hands-on activities that captivate students' attention. He promotes analytical thinking by encouraging students to draw connections between historical events and current affairs, helping them see the relevance of social studies in their everyday lives. Mr. Mitchell creates a welcoming classroom atmosphere where all viewpoints are respected, and open, thoughtful dialogue is encouraged. With a genuine passion for social studies, he inspires curiosity about different cultures, geography, and government, encouraging students to explore and appreciate the complexities of the world around them.

Mrs. Mary Winters

Mrs. Winters brings passion and creativity into the classroom every day. She has a unique ability to make complex concepts understandable and engaging, turning even the most challenging topics into fun learning experiences. With a deep understanding of her students' needs, she creates an inclusive environment where everyone feels comfortable asking questions and making mistakes. Mrs. Winters is patient and encouraging, always ready to offer support and celebrate every success, no matter how small. Her enthusiasm for math is contagious, inspiring students to develop a genuine interest in the subject and confidence in their abilities.





Bonaire Elementary School
Dr. Tonya Pinckley, Principal
Ms. Emilee Coody, API

Dr. Michelle Koehle

Dr. Koehle has been teaching our gifted students here at Bonaire Elementary for the past four years. She has her doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She is currently teaching our gifted fourth graders. Dr. Koehle challenges her students each day to be critical thinkers. Her students are willing to try because they know she will be there to guide them if they need it. She builds great relationships and works hard to find additional resources.



Bonaire Primary School
Mrs. Ashley Watkins, Principal
Dr. Christie Bergh, API

Mrs. Michelle Sargent



Michelle Sargent has made exceptional contributions as a first-grade GTE teacher and has consistently demonstrated a remarkable blend of dedication, creativity, and innovation. I have had the pleasure of observing Mrs. Sargent's work firsthand and can confidently attest to her outstanding qualities as a teacher.

Mrs. Sargent is a paragon of a strong work ethic. Her commitment to her students and her profession is evident in the countless hours she dedicates beyond the classroom. She meticulously prepares her lessons, ensuring they are not only engaging but also aligned with the latest educational standards and methodologies. Her ability to manage and balance a demanding workload while maintaining a positive and inspiring classroom environment speaks volumes about her dedication and professionalism.

In her role, Mrs. Sargent consistently challenges her students to push beyond their comfort zones, encouraging them to think critically and creatively. She designs her curriculum to promote inquiry and exploration, fostering an atmosphere where students feel empowered to take intellectual risks and develop a deep, intrinsic passion for learning. Her innovative teaching strategies often incorporate interdisciplinary approaches, making complex concepts accessible and exciting.

What truly sets Mrs. Sargent apart is her unwavering dedication to nurturing each student's individual talents and passions. She goes above and beyond to provide personalized support and mentorship,

recognizing and celebrating each student's unique strengths and interests. This tailored approach not only enhances student engagement but also cultivates a lifelong love of learning. Her ability to inspire and motivate students is reflected in their enthusiastic participation and significant academic growth.

Moreover, Mrs. Sargent is a catalyst for innovation within the school community. She frequently introduces new teaching methods and integrates technology in ways that enrich the learning experience. Her forward-thinking attitude and willingness to experiment with novel ideas contribute greatly to the dynamic and progressive environment at our school.

In summary, Mrs. Sargent embodies the ideal qualities of an exceptional educator. Her strong work ethic, commitment to challenging and inspiring students, and dedication to fostering innovation and creativity make her an invaluable asset to any educational setting. I have no doubt that she will continue to make a profound impact wherever her career takes her.



C.B. Watson Primary School
Mrs. Monique Dawsey, Principal
Mrs. Phyllis Toliver, API

Mrs. Erin Flanders

During Mrs. Flanders' 6 years at CBWPS, she has grown from a 1st grade teacher to Gifted Lead teacher.

Mrs. Flanders is an awesome teacher leader at our school. She has a clear understanding of curriculum content and best practices. She has served on our school leadership team and the district's ELA curriculum writing team for a few years. She is an effective communicator and is instrumental in the area of PLC facilitating school improvement collaborations.

Mrs. Flanders is a dedicated educator working tirelessly to help her students reach high achievement while fostering authentic learning and creativity across the curriculum. This year she plans to sponsor our school's very first Chess Club. She is currently enrolled in the Houston County Leadership Development Program with aspirations of becoming an Assistant Principal of Instruction.

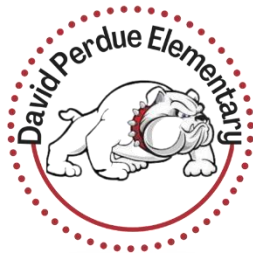


Centerville Elementary School
Mrs. Marcie Shaw, Principal
Ms. Bridget Snooks, API

Mrs. Tiffany Coder

Mrs. Tiffany Coder has been at Centerville Elementary School for 10 years. She is currently a 5th grade GTE teacher but has also taught 3rd grade at CES. Mrs. Coder is a valued member of our Guiding Coalition Team. She was a part of the first HCSD Teacher Leader Cohort. Mrs. Coder is always looking for ways to engage her students in authentic reading and writing activities. She is a proud co-sponsor of our Academic Bowl Team and helps prepared 5th grade GTE students in the HCSD Oratorical Contest. Mrs. Coder understands our school's mission of "Putting Children First" and strives each day to build impactful relationships with her students.





David Perdue Elementary School

Dr. Andy Payne, Principal

Mrs. Tiana Johnson, API

Mrs. Amy Stone

Amy Stone has been a gifted teacher at David A. Perdue Elementary School for longer than the 11 years I have been here as principal. She not only understands what it means to teach students who are identified as gifted, but she also understands what it means to enrich all students and push them beyond their normal thinking. In the 11 years I have been here, she has taught 4th grade GTE classes, and parents request her each year knowing how great of a teacher she is for our students. She incorporates technology in her classroom with different research and projects, and she works with other gifted teachers in our building on the engagement and enrichment piece. She is a leader in our building and has been on our Bulldog Coalition leadership team for years. We love and appreciate the work she does for our students and our school overall.



David Perdue Primary School

Mrs. Kathy Gibbs, Principal

Mrs. Keturia Williams, API

Mrs. Hollie Aaron



Hollie Aaron is a veteran GTE teacher with over twenty years of classroom teaching experience. Twice nominated for school-level Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Aaron has shown excellent leadership skills when collaborating with colleagues by leading the school-level Thoughtfulness Committee, participating on the PBIS team, and providing challenging and engaging lessons for her students daily. Mrs. Aaron has attended numerous professional development sessions as the social studies and science grade-level representative at county-wide training. Mrs. Aaron is best known for her unique ability to bring any read-aloud to life and captivate the attention of her audience with her enthusiasm. Among her colleagues, she is known for creating creative and thorough Google Slides to accompany any lesson and for her willingness to share resources and ideas. As a gifted teacher, her strengths lie in her natural ability to ask probing, high-level questions that make her students think and prove their thinking with evidence. Students are at ease in her room and freely discuss any academic topic.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Aaron is the wife and mother of two: Nicolas, 14, and Emily, 9. She is an active church member, serving as an adult Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, and Women's Conference Speaker. In her free time, she enjoys reading.



Eagle Springs Elementary School

Dr. Jeff Washington, Principal

Mrs. Stephanie King, API



Ms. Rebecca Leonard

Ms. Leonard is fairly new to the Houston County School System. She started her educational career in her hometown of Conyers, GA. Entering her second year in Houston County, she has the joyous privilege of teaching the 5th-grade gifted students at Eagle Springs Elementary School. She teaches all the subjects with excitement and high expectations. She also organizes and facilitates the ESES Academic Bowl team. Miss Leonard fosters relationships to help encourage, motivate, and challenge her students to show growth toward their educational goals. She is always eager to learn and grow to become a better teacher, leader, and colleague.



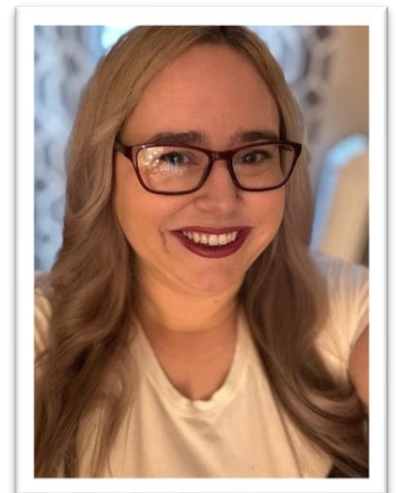
Hilltop Elementary School

Dr. Ovedia Glover, Principal

Mrs. Dara Seamans, API

Ms. Katelin Geiger

Katelin Geiger is a fourth-grade gifted and talented teacher at Hilltop Elementary School. She has been teaching at HES for eight years, yet she is in her thirteenth year of teaching. Ms. Geiger continually provides a secure and caring learning atmosphere where her students can make mistakes and grow. She takes pride in her job and her students' work because they know she cares about them and will do everything she can to guarantee they develop a love of learning. Providing regular opportunities for children to engage in hands-on activities and discussions about grade-level requirements promotes her philosophy and sets the bar for educating all students at Hilltop Elementary School. We are very proud of Ms. Geiger's accomplishments and will continue to support her as she rises to the top!





Kings Chapel Elementary School

Mrs. Shelley Shillcutt, Principal

Mrs. Kalesia McKnight, API

Mrs. Kelli Barnes

Mrs. Barnes graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She also holds

a Master's degree in Mathematics and Reading for Early Childhood, as well as a Specialist degree in Early Childhood Curriculum. With 18 years of teaching experience, 10 of which have been at Kings Chapel Elementary, Mrs. Barnes serves as our grade-level leader and is a cornerstone of our school community. She is always positive, smiling, and willing to do whatever it takes for her students to learn and grow.

Mrs. Barnes is an advocate for all students and consistently does what is best for them. Her favorite quote is, "Whatever you do, do it well." - Walt Disney. She embodies this philosophy in her teaching, pushing her students to consistently exceed grade-level expectations. She is always willing to try new things to make learning relevant, fun, and engaging. Mrs. Barnes encourages her students to think outside the box and to always believe in themselves.

Beyond her classroom, Mrs. Barnes is a source of inspiration and support for her coworkers and grade-level team members. She fosters a collaborative and encouraging environment, always ready to share her knowledge and enthusiasm. Her leadership and dedication have made a significant impact on both students and staff.

Mrs. Barnes is the true definition of an exemplary teacher, and we are incredibly fortunate to have her at Kings Chapel Elementary School.



Lake Joy Elementary School

Dr. Tami Godman, Principal

Dr. Sandra Crow, API

Mrs. Ashleigh Edwards

Ashleigh Edwards is a true characterization of what it means to be a Gifted Educator. Mrs. Edwards exemplifies unparalleled dedication, creativity, and compassion not only in her classroom but also for our entire school community. Serving as our Gifted Lead Teacher (GLT), Mrs. Edwards consistently redelivers professional development to our faculty, communicates effectively with parents/community members, and most importantly, engages in a shared love of lifelong learning alongside our students. With an innate ability to connect with her students, Mrs. Edwards creates an engaging and inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued and capable, regardless of what area they may or may not be Gifted in. Beyond her exceptional classroom skills, Mrs. Edwards is deeply committed to her students' overall well-being, often going above and beyond to provide support and encouragement. Her passion for teaching and her genuine care for her students' success make her an invaluable asset to our school community!





Lake Joy Primary School
Dr. Sonya Kiefer, Principal
Mrs. Morgan Aeschlimann, API



Mrs. Sabrina Hall

Mrs. Sabrina Hall, a second-grade teacher at Lake Joy Primary School, is celebrated for her exceptional dedication and enthusiasm in her teaching. As a gifted and talented educator, she consistently goes above and beyond to create an environment where students are not only challenged but also inspired to explore their full potential. Mrs. Hall's teaching style is dynamic, as she expertly cultivates intellectual curiosity, ignites a passion for learning, and encourages her students to think creatively and innovatively. Her devotion to nurturing each child's unique abilities has made a lasting impact on her students, earning her well-deserved recognition with the Shah Grant Award.



Langston Road Elementary School
Mrs. Kyon Cobb, Principal
Dr. Erin Gramley, API

Mrs. Alicia Graham

Mrs. Graham is a natural leader on her grade level team. The students and other staff members know they can count on her for strong instructional guidance and support in learning. Mrs. Graham seamlessly adds rigor to the third-grade standards while also providing appropriate scaffolding to ensure student mastery and understanding.

Mrs. Graham has a particular strength in writing instructional planning and delivery. She guides her team as they work to build student capacity in the different genres of writing. Mrs. Graham has historically integrated science and social studies content through writing instruction. She uses the content standards to increase students background knowledge and vocabulary.

Mrs. Graham also allows her students to demonstrate mastery in a myriad of ways, depending on student choice and strength. She guides them as they select the medium in which to show what they know.

Through relationship building with parents and students, Mrs. Graham closes gaps and challenges students to rise to their personal best. She celebrates small and large victories (academic and otherwise) in the classroom to motivate students and continue on a path to greatness.





Langston Road Primary School

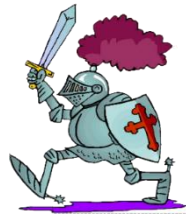
Dr. Kelly Rush, Principal
Mrs. Kayla Shumway, API

Mrs. Melanie Shellong

Melanie Shellong is a dedicated second grade gifted endorsed teacher. She inspires her students to stretch their learning and reach their highest potential by challenging them with rigorous work and higher-level discussions. Gifted learners need instruction and experiences that are rich with elevated concepts and content, and Mrs. Shellong does an exceptional job of providing this to her students. She is also a very nurturing teacher who takes time to hear her students share how they've made connections with their learning.

Our school depends on solid teacher leaders, and Mrs. Shellong is a vital part of our leadership team. She represents second grade and strongly supports our administration by promoting necessary change with a positive attitude. Mrs. Shellong also leads her Professional Learning Team (PLT) with due diligence and authority. She works with her grade level team to review assessment data to improve student growth and achievement. Mrs. Shellong works exceptionally well with her team members, and they hold each other collectively accountable for how all their second graders perform over the school year.

Mrs. Shellong has been a part of our after-school Math Club to help enrich our students through problem solving and creativity. She puts her students first, ensuring that their time in her classroom is filled with productivity and innovative thinking. Mrs. Shellong would be a worthy recipient of the Shah Grant. She has the enthusiasm, dedication and devotion that is needed to help our students become lifelong learners, as well as passionate and successful members of society in years to come.



Matt Arthur Elementary School

Dr. VaRee Harrell, Principal
Mrs. Robin Rooks, API

Mrs. Peaches Tankersley

Mrs. Tankersley has been teaching 5th-grade Gifted and Talented students at Matt Arthur Elementary School for the past 11 years. She serves on the Gifted Advisory Board for Houston County as well as the Gifted Lead Teacher at Matt Arthur Elementary School. She has served as the STEM Club and Science Olympiad sponsor for her school for the past 10 years.

She also serves as the Science Cadre chair for her grade level. She provides a strong focus in her classroom by building her students' creativity and curiosity through inquiry-based learning. While she teaches all subjects, she has a special passion for teaching math and science to her gifted students while challenging them to think outside the box. Mrs. Tankersley is often seen around campus taking her students on scavenger hunts for scientific phenomena and bringing her students back together to conduct research on their findings. At the end of every year, Mrs. Tankersley's students create digital presentations of their year of learning, and they present to the 3rd and 4th-grade gifted students, priming them for the upcoming 5th-grade gifted curriculum expectations.





Matt Arthur Primary School

Ms. Alicia Conner, Principal

Mrs. Brandi McIntyre, API



Mrs. Kristen Erickson

Mrs. Kristen Erickson is our nominee for the Shah Family Grant. She has been teaching for 14 years, and 3 of those years have been in the gifted and talented education class. She has taught grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd.

One thing she loves about teaching gifted students is their curiosity and wonder. She stated that their love for learning is contagious and watching them grow not only academically but socially is incredible. Mrs. Erickson does a great job integrating subject matter for a more authentic learning experience, making her classroom environment fun and exciting. She loves to use STEM education (or pieces of it) any chance she gets because it challenges her students to be problem solvers and learn to work collaboratively. Mrs. Erickson's approach in using hands-on activities and experiments lends itself to success for all students while building core memories.



Miller Elementary School

Dr. Dana Brock, Principal

Dr. Katina Gibson, API

Ms. Rheanna West

Ms. West is a very dedicated and enthusiastic teacher. She is gifted endorsed and our lead gifted teacher. When I walk into Ms. West's class, I can tell the students feel valued and loved. Ms. West challenges students to learn all they can and to strive for excellence. Her passion for learning is contagious and has made learning enjoyable for her students. Visiting her class has been one of the most rewarding experiences as a leader. Ms. West challenges her students to think critically. She never minds going the extra mile to help her students understand the material which has made a big difference. Ms. West truly cares about her students' success, and it shows. She is also a great teacher leader and role model to other teachers. The Shah Grant will assist Ms. West and Miller students in extending their learning and achieving academic excellence.



MORNINGSIDE



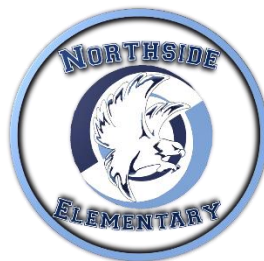
Morningside Elementary School

Dr. Kasandra King, Principal

Mrs. Tonya Barfield, API

Ms. Courtney Curles

Ms. Courtney Curles is currently a 4th grade GTE teacher at Morningside Elementary. She began her career in education in Chatham County where she taught Integrated Technology and 3rd grade. For the past 8 years, Ms. Curles has taught in Houston County at Morningside Elementary School. She obtained her Gifted Endorsement and has been teaching Gifted and Talented students for the past 3 years. Ms. Curles not only challenges her students academically, but she also creates a classroom environment that encourages critical and creative thinking. She continually integrates technology and STEM activities into her daily classroom routine, and her students are excited to see what each day will bring. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Curles as a member of our Morningside Elementary family.



Northside Elementary School

Mr. David Sams, Principal

Dr. Kristina Cummings, API

Mrs. Stacy Brown

Stacy Brown is a dedicated educator who has supported the gifted students of Northside Elementary School since she joined the Falcon Family in 1996. She is a past NES Teacher of the Year, a STEM Teacher of the Year, and a recipient of 13WMAZ's My Teacher is Tops. As an advocate for our gifted students, Ms. Brown serves as the Gifted Lead Teacher, as a leader on our Math School Improvement Plan team, and as a member of our Guiding Coalition. In all of these roles, she ensures that she is a voice for our gifted students and their unique needs. Additionally, she provides countless challenging and engaging activities in her classroom, and she shares those ideas in our gifted professional learning team. She is the school spelling bee coordinator, and she organizes bi-annual trips to Space Camp for our gifted students. Her dedication to gifted children of the Northside community even stretches over to Northside High School where she has served as the assistant band director since 2021. The gifted students of Northside Elementary are truly blessed with her enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work.





Parkwood Elementary School

Mrs. Kelly Munn, Principal

Mrs. Amanda Bennett, API



Mrs. Sara McMahon

Sara McMahon is the 1st grade GTE teacher at Parkwood Elementary. Mrs. McMahon serves on our Guiding Coalition and is currently a member of the Houston County Teacher Leadership Academy. She is a passionate teacher who builds positive relationships with her students and works daily to ensure each of her students is on track to meet their fullest potential! Mrs. McMahon is a natural leader who makes a positive difference in the lives of each student who has the pleasure of being taught by her.



Pearl Stephens Elementary School

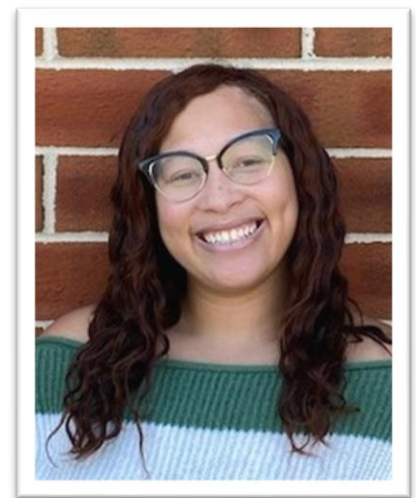
Mrs. Gloria Smith, Principal

Mrs. Jessica Teemer, API

Mrs. Alexis Alexander

Alexis Alexander is a standout educator who brings an exceptional level of expertise and passion to her role as a 3rd grade gifted teacher. Her lessons are thoughtfully designed to foster critical thinking, encouraging her students to engage deeply with the material and explore concepts from multiple angles. She creates a classroom environment where students are encouraged to work together, share ideas, and support one another. This collaborative spirit not only enhances their learning experiences but also helps them develop essential teamwork and communication skills. She is deeply attentive to their emotional well-being, creating a nurturing environment where each student feels valued and supported. Her commitment to intellectual growth and emotional support is evident in every aspect of her teaching.

Mrs. Alexander's commitment to high achievement for all extends beyond her classroom. She sponsors the Girls of Pearl, a mentoring group for 3rd – 5th grade students. She is also a teacher leader and serves as a member of the Pearl Stephens Better Seeking Team. She also leads the New Teacher Mentoring Program at our school. Through this program, she supports teachers who are new to Pearl Stephens as they become acclimated to the culture of Pearl Stephens Elementary. Mrs. Alexander is an asset to our students and teachers and is so deserving of this award.





Quail Run Elementary School

Dr. Amanda Miliner, Principal

Mrs. Kasey Hopkins, API

Mrs. Kim Pellegrino

Mrs. Pellegrino is our second grade gifted and talented teacher at QRES. She does an outstanding job daily of challenging her students and providing relevant and engaging enrichment activities. She encourages critical thinking skills and creativity through authentic learning experiences, and hands-on, project-based learning is the norm in her classroom. Mrs. Pellegrino serves as co-gifted lead teacher for our school. She is organized and always professional. We are so thankful to have Mrs. Pellegrino at our school, and we are thrilled to select her as the 2024-25 Shah Grant recipient.



Russell Elementary School

Mr. William Wilson, Principal

Mrs. Heather Henslee, API



Dr. Amanda Hunnell



Dr. Hunnell has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to teaching and has consistently enriched her students' educational experiences. Her profound knowledge of the needs of gifted students sets her apart as an exceptional educator.

Notably, Dr. Hunnell goes beyond her classroom duties by actively encouraging her 5th-grade team to seek opportunities to enhance and enrich their students' learning experiences. Her leadership qualities and commitment to the holistic development of her students make her an invaluable asset to any educational institution.

Dr. Hunnell's teaching experience spans across 3rd and 5th grades, allowing her to bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to any role she undertakes. Her passion for education, coupled with her interpersonal and leadership skills, make her an exemplary candidate to receive this special recognition.

I have no doubt that Dr. Amanda Hunnell will continue to positively impact the lives of students and contribute significantly to our academic community.



Shirley Hills Elementary School
Mrs. Kristen Brooks, Principal
Mrs. Charlotte Dunlap, API

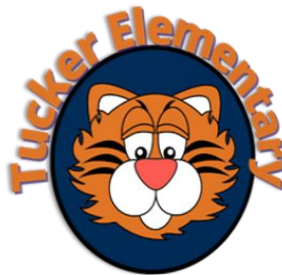


Mrs. Crystal Walker

Mrs. Crystal Walker is a passionate and dedicated educator who brings boundless enthusiasm to her Gifted (GTE) second grade class. She has been a dedicated teacher here at Shirley Hills Elementary for the past 19 years. Her unique ability to stir up intellectual curiosity transforms every lesson into a journey of discovery. By presenting complex concepts in engaging ways, she inspires students to think beyond traditional boundaries and cultivates an environment where innovation, creativity, and critical thinking flourish. In her gifted classroom, Mrs. Walker challenges students to apply knowledge in real-world contexts, encouraging them to innovate, create, and pursue their passions with confidence.

What sets Mrs. Walker apart is her deep connection with students and her commitment to nurturing their growth. She devotes time to understanding each student's strengths and interests, fostering a supportive atmosphere where they feel safe to take risks and explore new ideas. Through her unwavering dedication, Mrs. Walker empowers her students to become lifelong learners and future leaders, equipping them with the skills

and passion to excel both academically and personally.

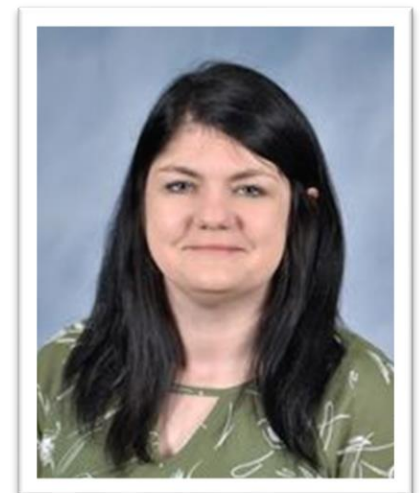


Tucker Elementary School
Mrs. Eddie Williams, Principal
Dr. Meredith Fletcher, API

Ms. Holly Owen

Holly Owen has been teaching for 13 years. She has taught every grade K-5th except 1st. She has a master's degree, specialist degree, leadership degree and is GTE Endorsed. Additionally, she holds an Instructional Design and Technology Certificate and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She is our Teacher of the Year, serves as PBIS Data Analyst, and is on our Guiding Coalition. She is the school go-to for everything Technology.

Holly believes all students can learn at high levels and goes out of her way to engage students in authentic learning. She pushes her students to be the best they can be and provides many opportunities to showcase their talents and skills. She “thinks outside of the box” and encourages her students to do the same. She is creative and innovative, finding ways to provide learning experiences that will impact her students throughout their lives.





Westside Elementary School

Mrs. Angienik Allen, Principal

Dr. Artia Shorter, API

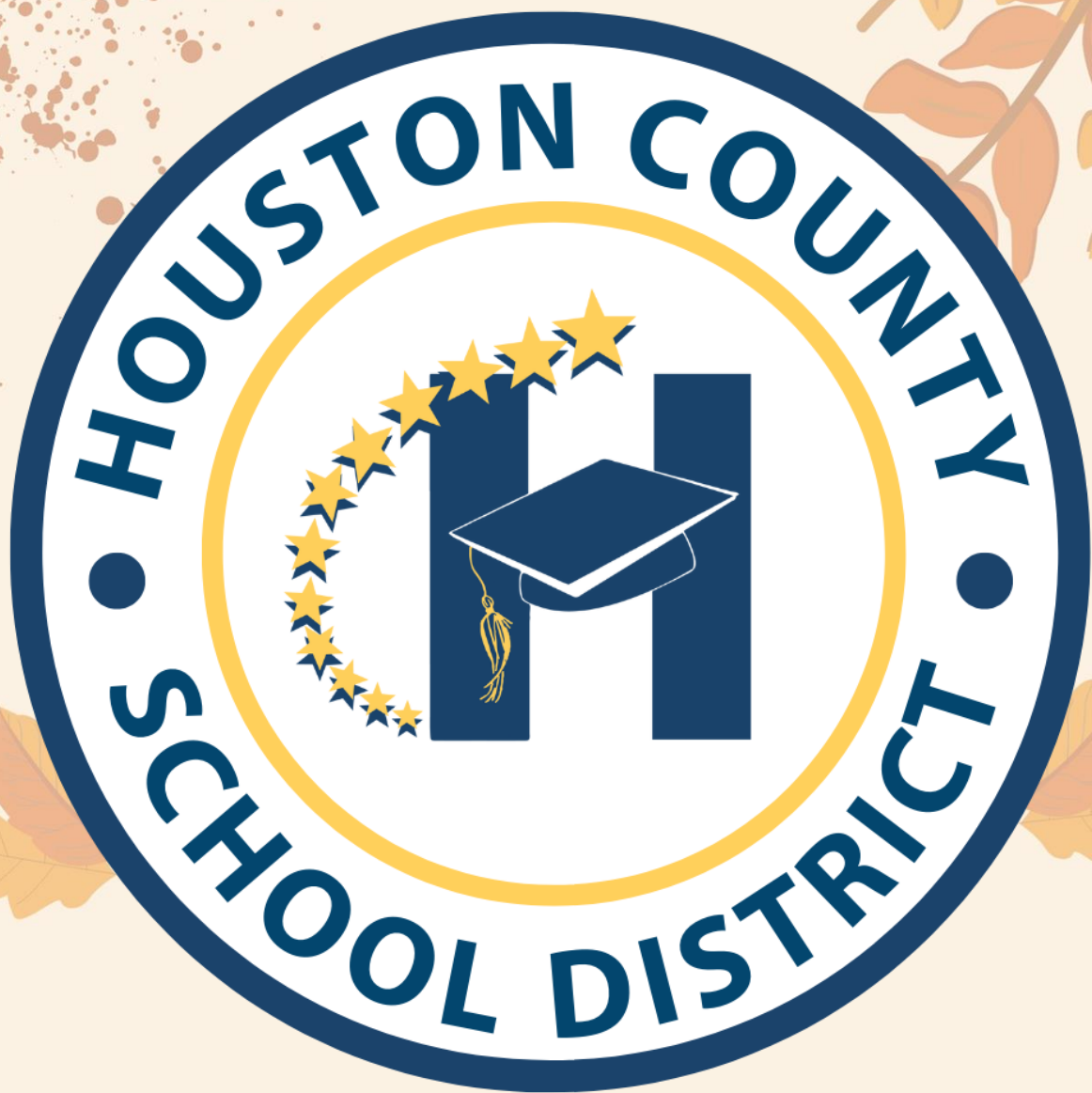
Mrs. Michelle Feldmeier

With 27 years of teaching experience, 24 of which were dedicated to Westside Elementary School, Mrs. Feldmeier holds a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in Instructional Technology. Throughout her career, she has specialized in serving Gifted students for a decade, as well as working with EIP and Special Education students. Serving as the Gifted Lead Teacher for 9 years and currently in the role of Gifted Co-Lead, Mrs. Feldmeier is dedicated to creating a nurturing and supportive environment for students to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Feldmeier believes in fostering a positive classroom environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and learning from their mistakes. Her ultimate goal is to cultivate a culture of respect and collaboration among students. As a proud graduate of the Houston County School System, Mrs. Feldmeier is committed to providing engaging and enriching learning experiences for her students.

In her personal time, Mrs. Feldmeier enjoys reading, shopping, and traveling, activities that allow her to recharge and bring fresh perspectives to her role as an educator.





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