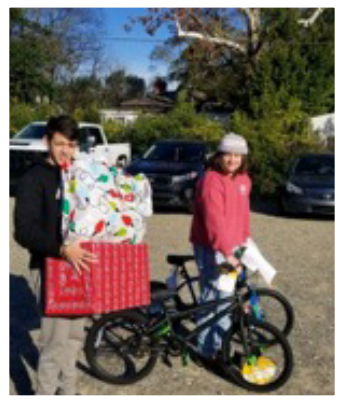


STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

OPERATION SANTA



The Houston County School District Social Services Department facilitated a memorable Christmas for 121 of our students. Support from our community sponsors made this possible. Members of the Optimist Club, along with their families, delivered gifts to the homes of our students. The Social Services Department greatly appreciates the partnership with these individuals and organizations that have helped to provide such a joyous holiday for our students and their families.

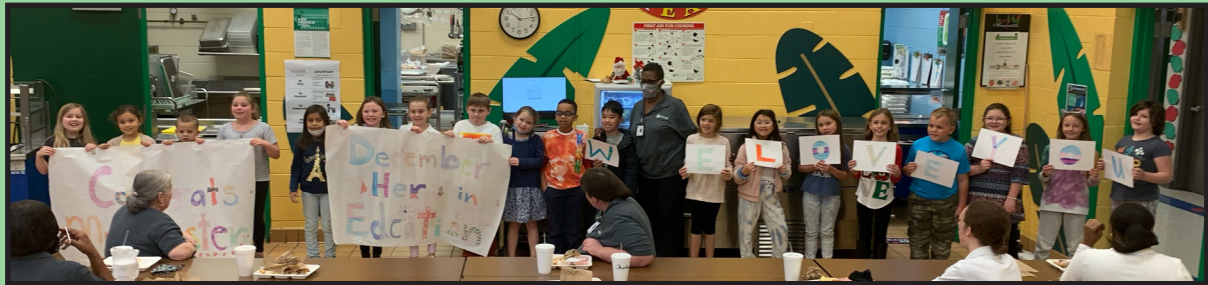


- ### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS !
- The Optimist Club
 - Braswell Family Dentistry
 - Crossroads Civitan Club
 - Jimbo Farr
 - Jason Maxwell
 - VHS Football Team & Boosters
 - Jarrod & Andrea Sells
 - Colours Salon
 - Dress You Up Formals
 - Jason & Tiffany Pinkney
 - Inspire Pilates
 - Andy & Kylie Ray
 - Danielle Molena
 - Buzzell Heating & Air

HERO IN EDUCATION



The Perry Chamber of Commerce honored Shirley Lester, food assistant at Tucker Elementary, as their Hero in Education at their December 2021 meeting. We were thrilled to see Shirley recognized for her care and dedication to the children at Tucker. She joined our team in February of 2020 and has made quite an impact on the families that have gotten to know her. She retired from Frito Lay after 30 years of service and has loved making school nutrition her second career. She has already been a finalist for Employee of the Year and received the Top-Notch Tiger Award from the Tucker family. Congratulations, Shirley!



HOLIDAY TREATS

School Nutrition always loves the month of December! It provides an opportunity for our staff to be creative and make special memories with our students. On Thursday, December 9, schools celebrated by making special holiday treats. Reindeer brownies, snowmen cookies, and ornamental cakes put huge smiles on our students' faces! We were excited to have some extra fun before our winter break.



VACCINE CLINIC

The Houston County School District is starting off the new year with increased safety measures for students and staff! During the clinics hosted at our schools in November and December, 553 students were vaccinated for COVID. Combined with the 1005 students vaccinated in the first round of students twelve and older, a total of 1558 students received vaccinations across the district. District employees were given the opportunity to receive the COVID booster through the partnership with Houston Healthcare and Houston County Health Department. A total of 550 boosters were administered. The Houston County Health Department will return in January to administer the second dose of the COVID vaccine to those students who started the series in December. We are excited that our employees and families have benefited from our continued partnership with the healthcare facilities in Houston County.

Transition Academy Students ServSafe Certifications

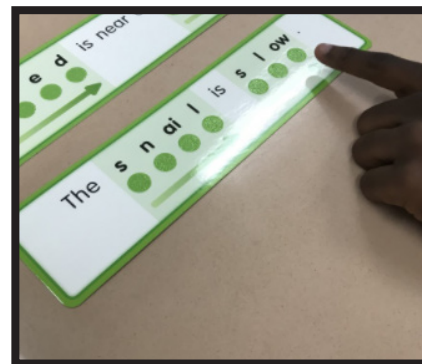
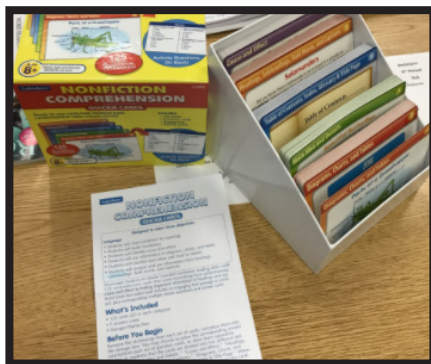
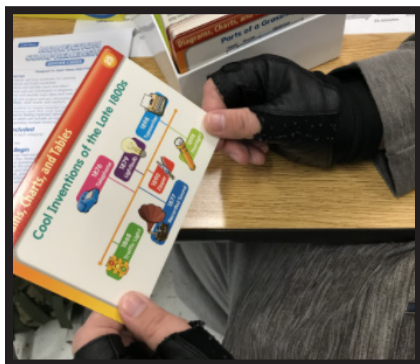
Students at the Transition Academy recently took part in the ServSafe Food Handlers training presented by the University of Georgia Extension office. They learned the importance of food safety and have been able to apply what they learned while cooking in the Daily Living Center. The five students pictured earned a passing score of 75% or higher and received their certificate from ServSafe. We are proud of the hard work from each of our students and enjoy seeing them apply their new skills as we prepare food.



Pictured from left to right: Elijah McDonald, Ke'Shaun Sturkey, Dalton Campbell, Sydney Veal, and Malcom Graves

CEC Mini Grant

This month we are spotlighting our final Ellen Maltais Chapter for the Council of Exceptional Children mini grant winner for 2020-21. Ms. Renee Lee, from Perry High School, was awarded a grant based on her submission for additional resources to access the curriculum. Mrs. Heather Battle, the MID teacher, is currently using the materials with her students. The resources specifically included kinesthetic phonics cards, nonfiction comprehension cards, and narrative writing story cards. Mrs. Battle shared that her students are responding well to the resources. The narrative writing cards have assisted her students when putting a story in sequential order and have also helped those who have difficulty beginning their stories. The comprehension cards have helped students increase their fluency as well as understanding of a variety of text. Students are very excited to have the option of choosing their preferred topic for reading. One student chose inventions of the 1800's because he loves history. He was surprised to learn that the traffic light was invented before the light bulb! The reading resources have also helped Mrs. Battle's students better understand text by including skills for glossaries, indexes, charts, tables and diagrams. Students working on decoding skills have been using the kinesthetic phonics cards by touching each letter as they blend the sounds. Materials provided by the mini grant have been a great tool for students in Mrs. Battle's classroom.



Teacher Induction

On December 14th, twenty-four Houston County Special Education Teachers participated in the Special Education Teacher Induction program to learn more about High Leverage Practices (HLP). The session was the second of a two part series. High Leverage Practices were developed in partnership with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Collaboration for Effective Educator Development (CEEDARS). Special education teachers collaborated and engaged in activities to explore six additional practices. The following practices were included in the training session:

- HLP 1: Collaborate With Professionals to Increase Student Success
- HLP 2: Lead Effective Meetings With Professionals and Families
- HLP 3: Collaborate With Families to Support Student Learning and Secure Needed Services
- HLP 7: Establish a Consistent, Organized, and Respectful Learning Environment
- HLP 8: Provide Positive and Constructive Feedback to Guide Students' Behavior
- HLP 16: Use Explicit Instruction

Participants completed self-assessments on each practice. Teachers engaged in meaningful conversations on their understanding and implementation of HLPs in their daily instructional practices. The training was facilitated by Mrs. Cindy Harkins, Dr. Karen Jones, and Mrs. Daphne Whetsel.

Parade Fun

The Houston County Sharks participated in the Warner Robins Christmas Parade. They had a grand time pushing the route in their chairs and spreading Christmas joy.



Special Olympics

Houston County Schools were able to compete in a state organized Special Olympics Invitational Bowling tournament. This event was hosted on December 9, 2021, at Gold Cup Bowling in Warner Robins. Warner Robins High, Veterans High, Houston County High, and Warner Robins Middle were able to compete against other schools in our surrounding area. In total, our school brought home 3 gold team medals, 3 silver team medals and 2 bronze team medals.



Affirmation Bracelets

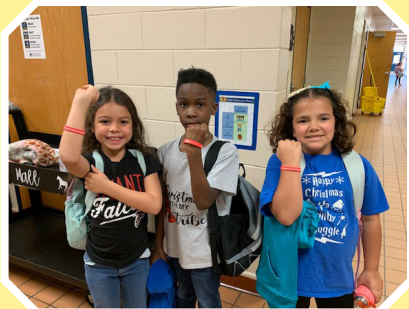
Project AWARE distributed affirmation bracelets with messages of encouragement and support to students in each of our 39 schools. Each bracelet displays one of the messages below:



I Matter.
Someone cares about me.
I am enough.



Students were encouraged to either wear their bracelets or give it away should they see a fellow student who needs to be uplifted.



Student Risk Screening

The Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing/Externalizing Scale (SRSS-IE) was completed on students at Parkwood Elementary School and Langston Road Elementary School during November 2021. The SRSS-IE is a universal screening tool used to steer teacher-delivered low intensity supports, identify service gaps in Tier 1 efforts, and connect students with evidence based Tier 2 and Tier 3 strategies.

The Project AWARE team met with school administrative teams in December to review the data and assess how Project AWARE would be able to provide school-wide Tier 1 efforts, as well as individualized student supports.