



Perry High School hosted the Probe Fair on Tuesday, October 4 in the gym. The PROBE fair gives 12th grade students an opportunity to learn more about post-secondary options after high school. The School Counselors from each high school took the students to PHS to attend the event. The goal of the Probe fair is to connect students with the right school to meet their individual needs and career goals.

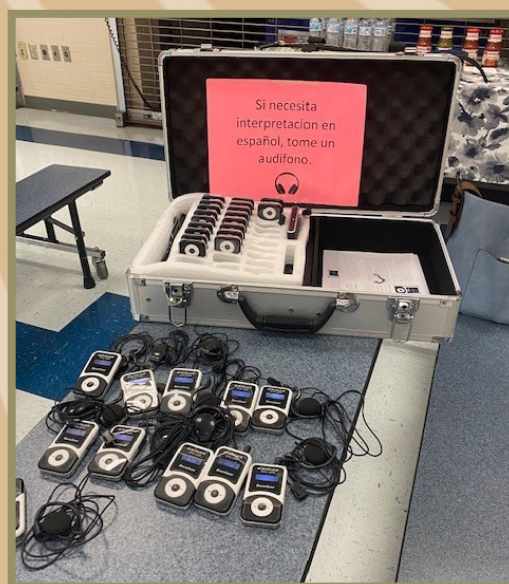




# Lindsey Student Support Center TACO' BOUT Technology!



**T**he Taco Bout Technology workshop was held at the Lindsey Student Support Center on September 27. Led by Alicia Montford, this workshop was designed to help parents easily explore online district resources for learning-at-home opportunities. Highlights included navigating through the Houston County School District's website, transportation options and Infinite Campus. Participants were surprised to learn that our district website can be translated into over 100 languages. Parents also explored digital educational apps used in the classroom including Splash Math, XtraMath, and Storyline Online for reading. They were able to view lists of Lexile leveled reading books assigned to their child. Parents were introduced to Khan Academy to find activities which included step-by-step videos showing parents and students how to work out math problems. Here we grow...a series of workshops for our community at the Lindsey Student Support Center!

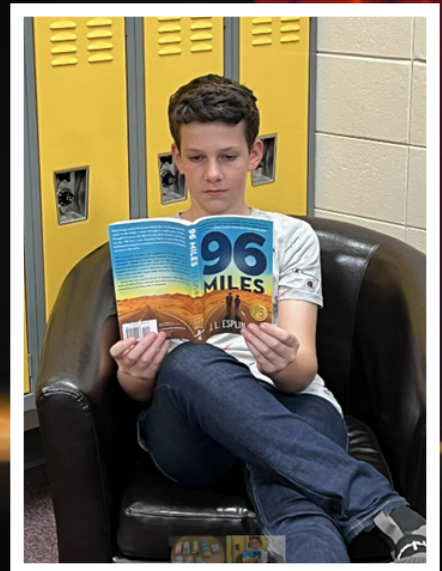




# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Our teacher spotlight this month goes to Michelle Starley at Mossy Creek Middle School. She is another CEC mini grant winner. The grant provided funding to purchase classroom novels with varying lexile levels for her students. Her goal is to increase students' love for books through independent reading opportunities. Students participate in a book club that meets three times per week. Students discuss various components of each novel during the book club meetings. This grant has enhanced her classroom library by allowing students to choose novels of interest, which has increased their motivation to read. Mrs. Starley has recognized an increase in comprehension and analytical skills among her students through the book club discussions. She also shared her excitement with noticing an increasing number of students reading during their free time.

Thank you, Michelle Starley, for being a dedicated teacher!



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**P**roject AWARE Houston, in collaboration with the District and School Effectiveness office, collected 13,247 Universal Behavior Screeners for Elementary/Primary grade students during September 2022. The Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing and Externalizing (SRSS-IE) is a universal behavioral screening tool completed by teachers. Behavior screeners are a proactive way for teachers to identify behaviors in the classroom that may be obstacles to learning. It is a brief 1-page screening tool, which teachers use to rate students on a 0-3 Likert Scale based on how often they display specific behaviors. The screener results fell into three areas: No indication of concern slightly raised, and elevated categories. Below are an overview of the SRSS-IE Universal Behavior Screening Results

#### **Internalizing Scores**

(Emotionally flat, Shy/withdrawn, Sad/depressed, Anxious, Lonely)

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>No Indication of Concern</b>	<b>Slightly Raised</b>	<b>Elevated</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>79.1%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
<b>Pre-K</b>	95% 955 students	5.3%% 53 students	0%
<b>Kindergarten</b>	84% 1,653 students	9.7% 190 students	6.4% 125 students
<b>1<sup>st</sup> grade</b>	80% 1,591 students	9% 188 students	11% 212 students
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> grade</b>	80% 1, 628 students	10% 214 students	10% 201 students
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	79% 1,531 students	10% 189 students	12% 228 students
<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	78% 1,665 students	11% 238 students	11% 241 students
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	75% 1,640 students	11% 242 students	14% 295 students

#### **Externalizing Category**

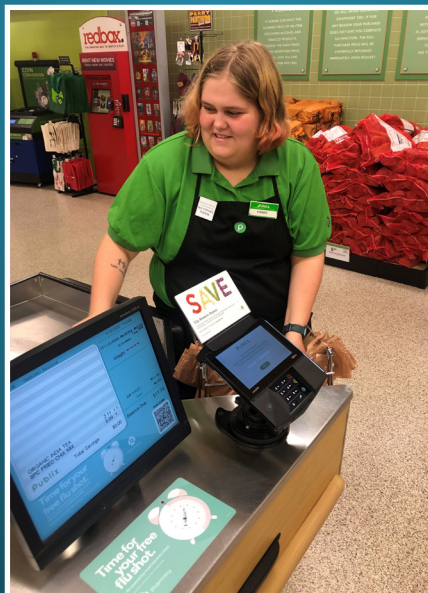
(Steal, Lie/cheat/sneak, Behavior problem, Peer rejection, Low achievement, Negative attitude, Aggressive)

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>No Indication of Concern</b>	<b>Slightly Raised</b>	<b>Elevated</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>73.82%</b>	<b>18.43%</b>	<b>7.74%</b>
<b>Pre-K</b>	72% 724 students	17% 172 students	11% 112 students
<b>Kindergarten</b>	76% 1,493 students	18% 345 students	6.6% 130 students
<b>1<sup>st</sup> grade</b>	73% 1,445 students	19% 369 students	9% 177 students
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> grade</b>	70% 1, 438 students	21% 433 students	8% 172 students
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	74% 1,451 students	18% 343 students	8% 154 students
<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	77% 1,643 students	16% 339 students	8% 162 students
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	73% 1,589 students	20% 433 students	7% 155 students

# Transition Academy

THE FUTURE STARTS NOW.

**H**ere we grow...and highlight one of our Transition Academy students, Kimmie Brown. Kimmie earned all of her graduation requirements from Perry High School. She has been attending the Transition Academy for the last three years learning job skills and volunteering at our community partner sites. Kimmie will be exiting the program in December. She is a hard-working young lady who always puts forth great effort when working at job sites. Kimmie has obtained employment outside of school. She is currently working at the Publix in Perry and has been there for one year. She has received two raises since she started working at Publix. Kimmie's long term plans are to work in a bakery. We celebrate Kimmie for all of her accomplishments as she exits the Transition Academy program and starts working full time!





## National Physical Therapy Month



**T**he PT Department celebrated Physical Therapy Month in October. School based physical therapists promote motor development and safe access to activities in the learning environment. Physical therapists are integral members of the school based team, and we thank them for their dedication to our students. Houston County School District Physical Therapy Department consists of the outstanding professionals pictured below.



Lori Young, PTA



Patti Carriker, PT



Karen Putman, PTA

**T**he Physical Therapy Department would like to welcome the newest member of the team, Lori Young. Lori earned an A.A. degree from Chipola State College in Marianna, FL and an A.S. degree in physical therapy from Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, FL. She has worked as a physical therapist assistant for the past 22 years. Lori has experience in a variety of settings including outpatient clinics, inpatient hospitals, home health, and for the last 13 years in the Florida public school setting. Lori relocated to Houston County in January of this year with her husband, Mack, and their three children, Caroline-14, Julianne-11, and Colton-8.

# Special Education Teacher Induction

## DEVELOPING MEASURABLE IEP GOALS

**F**ifty-four teachers participated in the second session of the Special Education Teacher Induction Professional Development series on September 20th. The focus was on “Developing Measurable IEP Goals” and presented by Student Services Coordinator, Bonnie Brown. Participants learned about the six components of measurable IEP goals and data collection strategies to determine student progress. Resources from this learning session and additional professional development sessions were shared with participants through Google Classroom.

## Youth Mental Health

**T**he Project Aware team presented at the third session of the Special Education Teacher Induction Professional Development series held on October 18th. The District’s Handle with Care initiative was reviewed, and Project AWARE provided an overview of anxiety, depression, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and trauma. Signs of student mental health challenges were provided as well as a 3-step intervention to build healthier relationships to promote student wellness. Discussions on educator burnout, mental health self-assessment, and available resources were held.



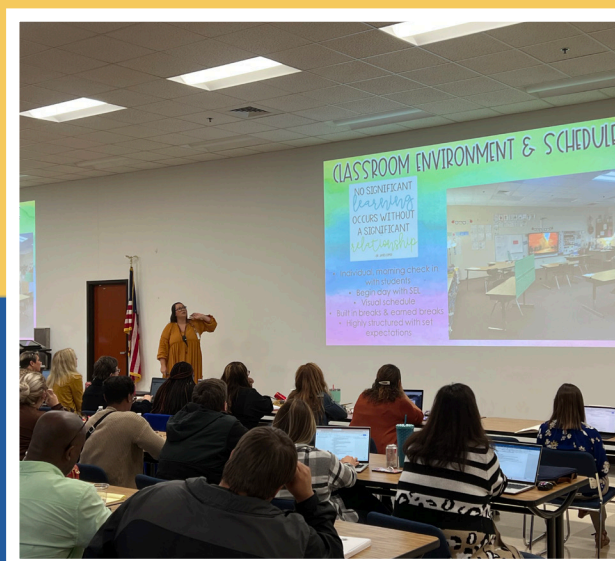


## A Fair Celebration with School Nutrition

**S**chool Nutrition did some serious clowning around for our Fair Promotion the week before Fall Break! Cafeterias were decorated with themes ranging from Charlotte's Web, the Country Fair, Circus Fun, and Games. One school even surprised students with a visit from two baby cows! Fair food filled the serving lines during the week including Chili Dogs, Funnel Cakes, and the return of our beloved Hot Wings, served with lots of fruits and vegetables of course! School Administration joined in on the fun as one principal dressed up like a hot dog and another entertained students with a talented juggling act during their lunch period. We are so proud that our community hosts the Georgia National Fair, and we love helping our students and staff get geared up to attend this annual event. Hosting the fair promotion in our schools ensures that ALL of our students get to experience the excitement of the fair!







**The Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE) hosted a Drive-In conference on October 18th. Presenters included Houston County's own Tangela Brice, Paula Cooper, Rachel Floyd and Denise Duke. The conference topic was "Modernizing your Behavioral Toolkit". Attendees were educated on the most commonly diagnosed mental health disorders for youth, and how to initiate crucial conversations with administrators, parents, and students on mental health topics. Resources on classroom and student management were provided to all participants. Over 140 participants from across the state raved about what they learned from some of our Houston County Experts.**



### Here We Grow...a Grand Prize Winner

**H**ouston County Shark and Northside Eagle Senior, MaCayla Moody, was chosen to be a Grand Prize Winner in the *Under Armour Athlete You Did Not See Coming Grant Competition*. Only 10 athletes from around the country were selected to be Grand Prize Winners. MaCayla will receive a \$5000 scholarship, sponsor-specified Under Armour gear for one year, and a 3 day/2 night trip to Baltimore to the Under Armour Campus. MaCayla plays wheelchair handball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair football, girls flag football at NHS, and she is a member of the NHS girls wrestling team. She is an amazing young woman! Way to go MaCayla!





**T**o commemorate the 2021-22 undefeated year the Sharks received their 3 sport State Championship Rings during the halftime of their game October 22, 2022. During the 2021-2022 school year the Varsity Sharks worked hard to redeem themselves after a disappointing previous year. They started strong, capturing the State Handball title by defeating the Dekalb Silverstreaks, and ending the handball season with a 8-0 record. During basketball, the Sharks smelled blood in the water and nothing was going to satisfy them until they rolled into the Macon Centreplex to try and regain their state title. The Sharks once again faced the Dekalb Silverstreaks in a Centreplex showdown! Sharks ended their basketball season once again undefeated at 8-0. Football started the very next Saturday! Once again they would accept nothing but a championship. They did it in high fashion finishing the season undefeated. All totaled, the Varsity Sharks were 24-0 last year and are currently undefeated this year.



**T**his year the Houston County Sharks are burning up the handball court. The Varsity team is currently undefeated and is ready to defend their state title. With all but one player returning from last year's team, the team's experience and maturity is really beginning to show. The Sharks Junior Varsity Team has exploded this year. There are 14 athletes on the JV team. They are improving every day and are currently tied for first with 2 games left in the season. This team is so exciting to watch! The Sharks Varsity and JV have won a combined 31 State Championships, and they are still striving for more!



# Special Olympics



Fall Games for Special Olympics were hosted at the Transition Academy on October 20th and 21st. Middle and high school students from across the district participated in games like Bocce, Soccer, Softball and skills competitions. Excitement and competition soared through the crowd. Awards were received in all events for the top 4 finishers. The Transition Academy students and staff were amazing hosts and contributors to the success of the event. Students in Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Cumbie's class ran the concession stand. They were able to use this opportunity to teach work-based learning concepts that included counting money, serving customers, stocking products, and practicing proper sanitation methods. Partners from Warner Robins High School were provided to help with events, set up, clean up, and even face-painting. WRHS students Makoa Whitfield and Annsley Smith beautifully sang the National Anthem while the ROTC presented colors during opening ceremonies. As always, these events take a lot of time and preparation. The support of our Board of Education, administrators, schools, and volunteers help to ensure these games are a success. We are thankful for all the schools and organizations in Houston County who teamed up to provide this opportunity for our Special Olympics athletes!



Our Special Olympics team partnered with Rigby's and Civitan to provide 176 elementary students a Fall Festival Day on October 18th and 19th. Students were able to participate in bowling, Putt-Putt, laser tag, arcade games, and they had a blast at the dance party. Rigby's also provided lunch for all our students. Thank you Rigby's and Civitan for your support of our Special Olympics program!