## **Civitan Grant Recipients**

The Houston County Civitan Club offered special education teachers an opportunity to apply for a mini grant to use towards a special project or resource for the classroom. This month we are recognizing two teachers who are recipients of this grant.

Mrs. Atkinson, a teacher at the Transition Academy, received a grant of \$250.00. The class used the money to complete a service project. The students prepared and froze more than 60 home cooked meals for Houston County homebound citizens. The class worked with the Middle Georgia Community Action Agency to distribute meals to residents in need.



Dr. Mallard-Jackson, Speech Language Pathologist at Hilltop Elementary School, is another recipient of a Civitan Grant. It is her ultimate goal to help children find their voices via vocal production or using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Many of the children at Hilltop Elementary School in the Severe/ Profound Intellectual Disabilities Program require an AAC device. With the help of the local Civitan Grant and the administration of the school, Dr. Mallard-Jackson was able to obtain a large AAC/Core board on the playground area. This will provide students an opportunity to communicate with their teachers and peers inside and outside the classroom.

Sup-Siudent Services

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## **Project AWARE Updates**





The Project AWARE team has continued with opportunities to conduct relevant trainings for our system and community. Project AWARE conducted Youth Mental Health First Aid for employees of the Warner Robins Fire Department. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Seventy-nine firefighters participated in this training over the course of three days. Additionally, during the month of September, the Project AWARE team in collaboration with RESA conducted Youth Mental Health and First Aid training for district employees.





# **School Nutrition**

The Fair is coming to town a little early for Houston County students this year! During the week of October 4th-7th, school cafeterias will be transformed into a carnival atmosphere complete with games, prizes, and a menu focusing on favorites from the Fair! The menu will include smoked turkey legs, funnel cake fries, and corn dogs! We are even extending the celebration to breakfast with some delicious cinnamon rolls and other morning-time twists on fair classics. We last hosted this promotion in October of 2019, and it was a huge hit with students and staff leading up to the actual opening of the Georgia National Fair. We can't wait to see the decorations, costumes, and excitement that goes along with it all! Follow us on our social media outlets for exciting updates!



### School Attendance Awareness Month

National School Attendance Awareness Month was recognized during September. The campaign for 2021 is Rebound with Attendance! This is a state and national initiative aimed at promoting better policies and practices around school attendance.

Across the country, due to chronic absences, more than eight million students are considered to be at risk academically. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent or greater of the total number of days enrolled during the school year for any reason. It includes both excused and unexcused, out-of-school suspensions, and in-school suspensions that last more than one-half of the school day. These absences could manifest into a third grader's inability to master reading, a sixth grader not passing classes or a ninth-grader dropping out of high school. The Houston County School District emphasizes the value of regular school attendance as essential to gaining a quality education.

Currently, many students and families face challenges and may need a higher level of support. The Social Services Department works in conjunction with the staff and administrators of all schools to identify students and families who experience barriers to regular school attendance, whether face to face or virtually. They also support schools with attendance awareness campaigns and recognizing students with improved attendance. Latonya Blasingame, school social worker, is pictured leading a group of students at HMS on the importance of regular school attendance.



Student Services Report - October 2021

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Don't forget to celebrate our Health Techs in October! Our Health Techs serve almost 30,000 students across the district. They assisted over 12,000 students last year by administering medications and performing first aid. In addition, they help keep our schools safe and students healthy by auditing immunization and mandated heath state forms, performing vision and hearing screenings, and supporting students and staff with other medical needs. Health techs are on the front lines in our schools to assist students and parents in stopping the spread of COVID-19. They have all gone above and beyond to step up to this challenge. Show your Health Techs how special they are on October 20th, 2021!



Vaccinations to prevent viruses and disease are essential to keep students and staff healthy. The Houston County Health Department is partnering with the Houston County School District (HCSD) again to provide a flu vaccination program to children at school at no out-of-pocket expense to families. Every year, many children are infected by the influenza virus, causing serious illness and missed days of school. Also, an infected child can spread the flu to other members of the family. Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. All staff and students are encouraged to get vaccinated by a healthcare provider or come to one of the HCSD Flu Clinics.



#### Flu Vaccine Schedule 2021-2022

**Health Related Services** 

Meningitis (MCV4) Vaccine (\*\*16 Years Old or Older/High School Only)

Houston Co. Health Department Drive-thru

Date August 23, August 25, August 27 **Time** 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Elementary Schools	Date	Time
Matt Arthur Elementary	Oct. 22	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
David Perdue Primary	Oct. 25	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
David Perdue Elementary	Oct. 25	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Pearl Stephens Elementary	Oct. 26	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
C.B. Watson Primary	Oct. 26	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Bonaire Primary	Oct. 27	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Bonaire Elementary	Oct. 27	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Parkwood Elementary	Oct. 28	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Westside Elementary	Oct. 28	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Quail Run Elementary	Oct. 29	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Northside Elementary	Oct. 29	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Hilltop Elementary	Nov. 1	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Russell Elementary	Nov. 1	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Shirley Hills Elementary	Nov. 2	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Miller Elementary	Nov. 2	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Eagle Springs Elementary	Nov. 3	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Centerville Elementary	Nov. 3	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Langston Road Elementary	Nov. 4	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Kings Chapel Elementary	Nov. 4	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Morningside Elementary	Nov. 5	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Tucker Elementary	Nov. 5	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Lake Joy Elementary	Nov. 8	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Lake Joy Primary	Nov. 8	1:00 p.m 3:00 p.m.
Lindsey Elementary/Behavior Support Program	Nov. 9	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.

Middle Schools	Date	Time
Perry Middle	Oct. 18	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Mossy Creek Middle	Oct. 18	12:30 p.m 2:30 p.m.
Thomson Middle	Oct. 19	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Northside Middle	Oct. 19	12:30 p.m 2:30 p.m.
Feagin Mill Middle	Oct. 20	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Warner Robins Middle	Oct. 20	12:30 p.m 2:30 p.m.
HC Career Academy	Oct. 20	11:30 a.m 12:30 p.m.
Bonaire Middle	Oct. 21	9:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.
Huntington Middle	Oct. 21	12:30 p.m 2:30 p.m.
HC WIN Academy/ Transition Academy	Oct. 22	12:30 p.m 2:30 p.m.

High Schools	Date	Time
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Perry High	Nov. 9	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Central Office	Oct. 26	10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Veterans High	Nov. 10	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Northside High	Nov. 10	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Houston County High	Nov. 12	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Warner Robins High	Nov. 12	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Department	Date	Time
Transportation Department	Nov. 16	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.