



Student Services Board Report

The Butterfly Project

Our Butterflies have been busy! On February 6, The Butterflies were special guests at a Macon Mayhem hockey game during the team's Olympics Night for Special Needs. The evening was filled with unforgettable moments as students took part in pregame high-fives with the players, cheered on the team from the stands, and were recognized on the ice at halftime. Each student was announced by name as they proudly walked across the rink—an experience they will never forget. The smiles said it all!

The excitement continued at the Bonaire Middle School Pageant, where our Butterflies performed the opening number, "We're All in This Together," following intermission. Taking the stage in front of a full audience was a thrilling moment, and our students shined brightly under the lights. We are so proud of their confidence, enthusiasm, and teamwork!



Congratulations

RISE Award Recipient



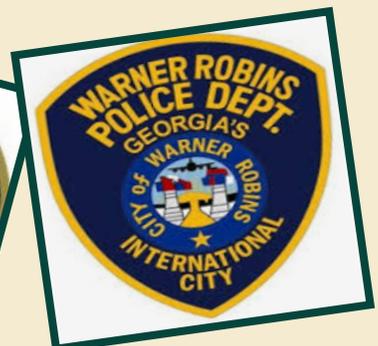
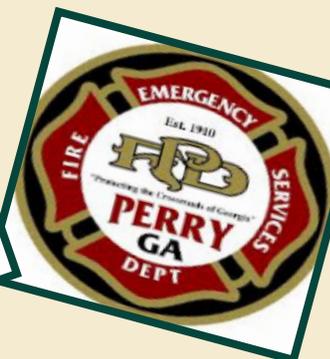
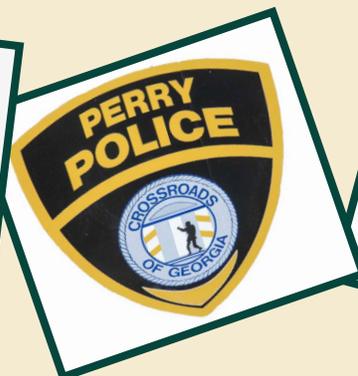
ANNETTE PENDER

A classified employee from Houston County Schools has been named a winner of the sixth annual Georgia Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award. The Georgia RISE Award honors classified school employees who provide exemplary service to students from pre-kindergarten through high school. These employees—including those in nutrition, transportation, custodial, technical, health, and other essential roles—play a vital part in supporting student success. This year’s recipient is Mrs. Annette Pender, School Nutrition Area Manager for Houston County Schools. In addition to receiving Georgia’s highest recognition for classified school employees, Pender was named a national finalist for the U.S. Department of Education’s Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award, placing her among a select group of professionals nationwide recognized for excellence in public education. Schools and districts across the state were invited to submit nominees, which were reviewed by a panel of judges from the Georgia Department of Education and partner organizations. Final selections were made by Governor Brian Kemp. State School Superintendent Richard Woods praised classified employees for their essential contributions to Georgia’s public schools and commended Pender’s dedication and leadership, noting that her national recognition highlights the outstanding work taking place in Georgia’s schools.

WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE THE

LSSSC

On February 12, the Lindsey Student Support Center hosted “When Every Second Counts,” a workshop designed to support families of students with Autism in preparing for crisis situations. Representatives from the Perry Police Department, Perry Fire Department, Houston County 911, Warner Robins Police Department, and Warner Robins Fire Department joined together to provide important information, answer questions, and help families feel informed and supported. This collaborative event strengthened community partnerships and reinforced our shared commitment to student safety and preparedness.



Summer Camp Resource Fair

On February 19, families connected with local summer camp providers at our Summer Camp Resource Fair. This interactive event gave parents the chance to explore programs for students of all abilities, ask questions, and learn about community resources to support enriching summer experiences. It was a lively opportunity to discover options that make summer both fun and accessible for every child.



LSSC Expresses Gratitude for Generous Donations in February 2026

The LSSC is deeply grateful to the Balvaunuca Club for their donation of \$1,500, which strengthens our programs and supports our ongoing mission. MidSouth Community Federal Credit Union also thoughtfully donated \$500 and hygiene kits. Their contribution ensures that our students and families have access to essential hygiene items and reflects a strong commitment to community well-being.

We sincerely thank both organizations for their partnership and support, which make a meaningful and lasting impact on our community.

Houston Cares Medical/Dental/Vision Clinic



The Houston Cares Medical/Dental/Vision Clinic provided critical health services to 425 adults and children during a two-day event held February 6–7. The clinic delivered a wide range of free services, including vision and hearing screenings, routine health check-ups, immunizations, Medicaid and PeachCare enrollment assistance, mental health resources, and on-site mammograms.

Partners and participants included Trinity Medical students, Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) Dental program representatives, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), WIC, Middle Georgia Community Action Agency (MGCAA), Houston County School District staff, Mamas Latinas, Mercer University, Atrium Health Navicent, community vendors, and local residents.

Event impact highlights include:

- 63 individuals received immunizations.
- 62 WIC applications were completed, expanding access to nutritional support services.
- 15 participants received on-site mammograms.
- 58 individuals accessed the food pantry and resource room for additional assistance.

More than 100 volunteers and community partners contributed their time and expertise to support the event. Organizers report that the collaborative effort helped ensure families across the community received essential medical care and resources.



SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Going Green... in the Best Way!

Every Friday, our middle school cafeterias proudly serve fresh, Georgia Grown collard greens sourced directly from Baker Farms in Norman Park, Georgia—bringing local flavor and nutrition straight to our students' plates. These hearty greens have quickly become a Friday favorite, proving that eating local can be both delicious and cool! While they're especially fitting around St. Patrick's Day, students don't need any luck to enjoy them—they're just that good!



LEARNING AND Laundry



The Transition Academy is excited to announce a new partnership with Classic Laundry Company on Moody Road in Warner Robins. This collaboration gives students hands-on employability training in a real-world setting, helping them build essential skills such as punctuality, communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and task completion.

With structured training and on-site support, students gain valuable exposure to workplace expectations while growing in confidence and independence. The partnership also creates internship opportunities, providing meaningful work-based learning experiences that support successful transitions to employment and long-term career readiness.



Share the Wealth Physical Education Conference

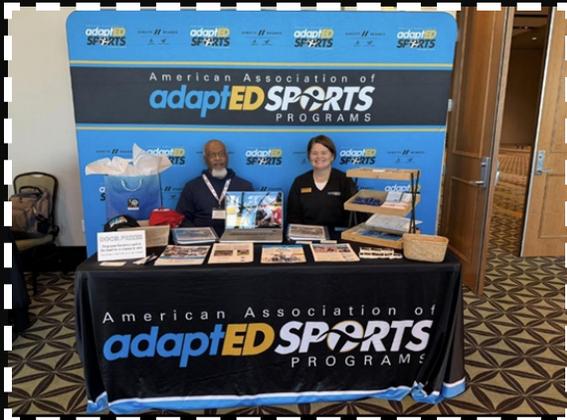


The PE teachers from Hilltop Elementary School, Bonaire Primary School, Langston Road Primary School, Northside Elementary School, Kings Chapel Elementary School, along with the elementary Adapted PE teacher, presented at the Share the Wealth Physical Education Conference on adapted PE.

They discussed the importance of inclusion in the physical education setting and shared strategies and methods for engaging students of varying ability levels in PE. Attendees had the opportunity to explore various stations that highlighted elementary skills and standards, as well as ways to adapt those skills and techniques to meet diverse needs.



SHARKS SHARE THE WEALTH



The Houston County Sharks partnered with Christy Jones and AAASP to assist with their presentation at the Share the Wealth Physical Education Conference. During the session, we introduced PE teachers to wheelchair handball and wheelchair football, allowing them to participate in a game and experience adaptive sports firsthand. We also shared information about the steps and considerations involved in starting a wheelchair sports program, including equipment and inclusion strategies.

Thank you to AAASP for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful presentation!



Bringing Monsters to Life:

A MULTI-SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Earlier this year, the autism class at DPES were invited to draw their own unique monsters. What they didn't know was that an incredible surprise was in the works. In partnership with HCHS, art students in Dr. Wyatt's class carefully created detailed ceramic versions of each monster, while creative writing students in Mrs. Davis's class wrote original stories to accompany them. With the support of both Dr. Payne and Dr. Jones, the project became a meaningful collaboration between both schools.

On February 20, the high school students visited DPES to personally deliver the ceramic creations and stories. The joy on the younger students' faces as they saw their artwork brought to life was unforgettable. Even more special were the connections formed as students sat together, shared smiles, and celebrated one another's creativity. This project was a powerful reminder of the impact of collaboration, creativity, and community.

