



# STUDENT SERVICES BOARD REPORT

## Transition Academy News

The Transition Academy kicked off this year with a new Custodial Lab at the LSSC. This lab provides a real-life setting for students to practice vocational training. Students perform custodial tasks including vacuuming, dusting, sanitizing, emptying trash, mopping, restocking, and maintaining grounds. Participants are performing all tasks independently and helping to maintain the aesthetics of the LSSC. We applaud the work effort of these young adults as they prepare for future employment opportunities.



## Beginners Sewing Class

Throughout the month of October, students had an opportunity to learn beginner sewing skills. During each class, students made a complete sewing project to take home and keep. Projects included a fabric keychain, 12x12 pillow, fabric ornament, and a standard size pillowcase. Students can build on these skills second semester during a more advanced sewing class.



# Thankful for LSSC



## CarniFall

The Trinity School of Medicine SGA hosted CarniFall on October 18 at Ted Wright Park. Families could play games, listen to live music, eat great food, and visit resource tables from community partners.

LSSC has worked hard to create long-lasting and meaningful partnerships that benefit our community. Following the event, the LSSC Clinic received a generous donation of \$575.00 from Trinity School of Medicine students.





### Emergency Preparedness Workshop

On October 23, the LSSC hosted an Emergency Preparedness workshop training for Stop the Bleed, CPR (non-certifying), and Narcan Training. Participants gained valuable knowledge in learning how to save a life in an emergency. Houston Healthcare also provided free first aid kits, CPR pamphlets, and Narcan to all who attended.



### UGA Extension Leadership Class

In October, the UGA Extension Center presented their Leadership class at LSSC. Students received training, mentorship, and opportunities for skill development in leadership. They also practiced good decision-making skills and public speaking to help them become better leaders.



### Beginner's English Class

The 10-week comprehensive course for beginning English learners continues at the LSSC. Participants who need clothing, shoes, or household items are also provided an opportunity to visit the Resource Room before or after class.







School Nutrition brought the magic of “Fair Week” to life once again, despite a slight delay due to Hurricane Helene. It was worth the wait. Cafeterias across the county were transformed into vibrant carnival scenes complete with petting zoo vibes, clowns, and even a mini replica of the iconic Georgia National Fair clocktower! The crowd pleasing menu featured philly cheesesteaks, BBQ ribs, turkey legs, and fun sides like fried pickles, corn ribs, and candied apple slices. Our students look forward to this event every year, and the excitement in our schools was contagious! One of our social media posts, showcasing the giant turkey leg, even reached over 1 million people, spreading the fun far beyond the cafeteria! At School Nutrition, our mission goes beyond serving nutritious meals. We aim to create experiences that enrich our students’ school days and make lasting memories. A huge thank you to our amazing school nutrition managers and food assistants for making this event such a success!



# Apalachee High School

## **Houston County School District loves and supports you!**

The president of the School Social Workers Association of Georgia (SSWAGA) emailed “A Call for Help” and our Houston County School District employees answered. Six of our very own HCSD employees traveled to Apalachee High School to support the community as they returned to school in the wake of the September 4 school shooting.

Houston County School District mental health clinician, Charlotte Chupp, along with five school social workers Linda Walker, April Nelson, Maria Josey, James Eustis and Stephanie Canon travelled to Barrow County on Wednesday, September 25, and provided on-site crisis support to both students and staff as they returned to the building for the first time. Linda Walker, a school social worker for 20 years, stated, “It was a surreal experience pulling up to the school and seeing the memorials of the four deceased victims. I met a lot of courageous people, both students and staff. The community was so full of gratitude.”

The Social Services Department in our district plans to remain in contact with support staff at Apalachee High School as well as the president of SSWAGA in case additional support is needed.







**Attendance Raffle Winners - WRHS**



**TMS students showing their school spirit for Attendance Awareness!**

## Attendance Awareness Month

Schools across the district hosted various activities to highlight the importance of school attendance. Warner Robins High School held a raffle for students with great attendance. Other schools, like Thomson Middle and Langston Road Elementary celebrated with spirit week. TMS dressed in school colors and LRES dressed as their favorite super hero. Westside Elementary School celebrated with an attendance pizza party. Thank you to our Social Services Department for raising awareness that academic success starts



**Attendance Super Heroes - LRES**



**Attendance Pizza Party - WES**





## Special Olympics

Houston County middle and high school students participated in local Special Olympics Fall Games on October 24 and 25. Students competed in activities that built skills in sports such as softball, bocce, and soccer. The games were fun, competitive and exciting for all students. Ribbons were awarded in all events. Houston County High School provided partners to help with events, and even hosted a face-painting booth. Houston County High School JROTC presented the colors and students from Chorus sang the National Anthem 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 to all the schools and organizations in Houston County who teamed up to provide this opportunity for our Special Olympics athletes!

Rigby's, Civitan and our Special Olympics program teamed up to provide elementary students with a Fall Festival Day. Almost 200 students were able to explore Rigby's and enjoy their attractions on October 22 and 23. Students were able to participate in bowling, putt-putt, laser tag, arcade games, and a dance party. Rigby's also provided lunch for all our students. Thank you, Rigby's!





# Thank You!!!



Houston County Special Olympics would like to thank Dr. Helen-Louise Moore and members of her staff at Pediatric Associates for offering free physicals to all Special Olympics athletes earlier this fall at the Lindsey Student Support Center. Residents from Houston Healthcare's Family Medicine Residency Program not only volunteered their time to help with the physicals but they were also able to gain real-world experience working with students with special needs. In total, 252 athletes received physicals. The OT/PT department recorded height and weight for each participant, and school nurses assisted with vital signs. Our athletes also would not have been able to participate without the support of our Transportation Department. This is the eleventh year that Dr. Moore has volunteered to provide physicals for Special Olympics athletes! Thank you!

