



Student Services Board Report



Fall Special Olympics

Houston County Middle and High School students participated in the local Special Olympics Fall Games on October 23–24. Events included Level A skills, softball skills, bocce, and soccer. The games were fun, competitive, and exciting for all participants, with ribbons awarded for first through fourth place. Houston

County High School students helped with events, setup, cleanup, and even face painting, while the HCHS Chorus performed the National Anthem. These events require great teamwork and preparation, and we're grateful to the Board of Education, administrators, schools, and volunteers whose support makes them possible. Thank you to everyone in Houston County who helped create this special experience for our athletes!



Transition Academy News

October was a productive and exciting month at the Transition Academy. Students made meaningful contributions at Community Based Vocational Instruction sites and in the DLC, where they ran a successful casserole business while developing important life and work skills. The fall menu introduced comforting new soups and chili. A major highlight was eight students winning Gold Medals at the State Special Olympics in Valdosta, where they also enjoyed socializing with peers from across Georgia. Overall, October showcased the students' dedication, teamwork, and achievements in the community, kitchen, and on the field.



LSSC News

Graphite Realism Art Class

Throughout October, students learned various skills and techniques for creating graphite realism sketches. They were introduced to a range of tools and methods that helped them produce detailed and visually striking artworks.



Emory Healthy Cooking Class

On October 13, 20 and 27, aspiring junior chefs learned to prepare simple and quick recipes. They were taught how to incorporate healthy snacks and meal options to encourage positive lifestyle changes.

English Class Cohort

Central Georgia Technical College has started a Fall cohort for adult community members who want to learn English as a second language. The 8-week course is designed to build proficiency and fluency in speaking and reading English. This first cohort is aiming to inspire a flourishing collaborative effort to help community stakeholders integrate English into their daily lives.



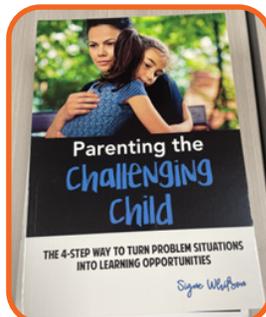
Wavier Assistance

On October 15, Parent Mentor, Marina Jones, walked families through the process of completing the NOW/COMP waivers and explained their importance for those who have a student with a disability.



Parenting the Challenging Child

On October 16, The Life Space Crisis Intervention workshop presented information to help parents effectively manage family conflicts as opportunities to build more positive relationships. Participants learned to understand stress and conflict, express emotions through healthy communication, and develop preventive skill-building strategies.



Read with Me - Literacy Initiative

Starting in October, the LSSC is partnering with Houston County Family Connection to offer a six-week literacy series, with one event each week through November. These literacy support sessions are led by HCSD specialists and focus on Scarborough's Reading Rope and related principles. Parents learn practical tips and strategies to help their children become proficient readers, while attending children enjoy a craft activity and participate in a reading circle.



NHS Food Drive Donation

The Northside High School softball team hosted a food drive for LSSC, collecting canned goods as admission to their Senior Night game—just five cans per guest! We're thrilled to put these donations to work, supporting the community members who visit our food pantry.



Gluten Free Food Donation

Miss International City Teen, Layla Dykes, generously donated gluten-free items for our food pantry patrons. We're thrilled to provide this new option to better serve the needs of our community members.



Morris Bank Donation

We are delighted to recognize Morris Bank for their generous donation of \$3,288 in support of the LSSC Mammogram Clinic. We sincerely thank Morris Bank and everyone involved for their commitment to supporting our students and families.



HCFC Resource Fair

Sweet treats and valuable resources! On October 29, families explored local community resources while their children went trick-or-treating at each vendor, filling their baskets with goodies. A fun and informative experience for everyone!

Thank You AKA Sorority!

AKA Sorority generously donated boxes and bags filled with snacks to share with our families during food pantry hours!



CONGRATULATIONS SHARKS!



In an action-packed showdown, the Houston County Sharks claimed the 2025 Varsity Wheelchair Handball State Championship, defeating the West GA Wolverines with a commanding 13–3 victory.

The Sharks showcased incredible teamwork and precision from start to finish, controlling the pace and capitalizing on every scoring opportunity. Their defensive pressure kept the Wolverines fighting hard, but Houston County’s relentless energy and sharp execution sealed the win.

Practicing Job Skills at Culver's

THANK YOU FOR
CULVER'S!



As part of the Community-Based Vocational Instruction (CBVI) program, Warner Robins High School students partnered with Culver's to gain hands-on experience in the food service industry. Students participated in tasks such as greeting customers, delivering orders, and assisting with takeout, while developing essential skills in customer service, teamwork, communication, and time management.



I just want to give Mr. Evans a big Thank you for letting us come into his store today to let us work with them on 9-30-25. Ya'll have good customer service. Hopefully we can come back and work again.

Thank ya'll so much for allowing us to come work with ya'll today.



With guidance from staff and Culver's team members, students built confidence, practiced professionalism, and gained valuable insight into future career opportunities. The partnership provided a meaningful, real-world learning experience that reinforced classroom lessons and promoted career readiness.



SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Fair Week 2025



Our cafeterias transformed into The Greatest Cafeterias on Earth for Fair Week, bringing fair-themed food and fun to our schools. Students enjoyed favorites like funnel cakes, while staff created a festive atmosphere with themed décor and smiles all around.

From roasted corn to “candied” apples, each day offered new treats and moments of joy. The week wrapped up with specialty pizzas, soft pretzels, and a staff turkey leg photo challenge – a “DILL-lightful” celebration of creativity, teamwork, and school spirit heading into Fall Break!



SOCIAL SERVICES *Update*

Stephanie Canon, School Social Worker at Veterans High School, recently brought an important message to all ninth graders with her presentation “Know the Risks: Youth and E-Cigarettes.” Developed by the CDC, the program teaches students about the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping.

Stephanie’s commitment to supporting students goes beyond the classroom—her leadership and dedication were recognized statewide when she was elected 2025–2026 Vice President of the School Social Workers of Georgia.



Three Houston County School Social Workers attended the National Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, learning strategies and evidence-based practices to reduce absenteeism, truancy, and support student success. The conference provided opportunities to connect with national experts and share best practices, which will help Houston County strengthen efforts to improve student attendance and academic achievement.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Kick-Off Party

We kicked off our Fall Special Olympics with Elementary Days at Rigby's! A special thanks to Rigby's Entertainment Complex for hosting over 200 of our elementary students on October 21st and 22nd. Students enjoyed bowling, putt-putt, laser tag, arcade games, and a dance party. And the best part? The pizza! Rigby's not only provided a fun space for our students to explore but also generously provided lunch for everyone. Thank you, Rigby's!

