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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2026

Release #2026/27 – 002

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Houston County School District Names 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year

Two Support Person of the Year winners were also announced
at Opening Session: Together, We Will



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Mrs. Brianna Walker of Perry High School was named the 2026-2027 Houston County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made at the District's Opening Session held on July 28. She received nearly \$14,000 in cash and prizes donated by businesses and organizations from throughout Houston County.

Mrs. Walker is a graduate of the Houston County School District and earned her bachelor's degree from Middle Georgia State University. She began her teaching career at Warner Robins Middle School before moving to Perry High School in 2021. Mrs. Walker earned her gifted endorsement and a certificate in Visual Thinking from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She graduated in 2023 with her Masters of Art in Art and Design from Kennesaw State University. Mrs. Walker sponsors the National Art Honor Society and co-sponsors Student Council. She is also a part of the school-wide leadership team.

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Mrs. Walker said, “My students are encouraged to experiment, reflect, and grow, knowing that effort and progress matter more than perfection. I view my students as clay: full of potential and ready to be shaped as they discover the artists they will become.”

Four Teacher of the Year finalists were also announced as follows:

- Mindy Brett, Hilltop Elementary School
- Dr. Lindsey Gentry, Houston College & Career Academy
- Bridget Eads, Northside Elementary School
- Jamie Mayhew, Warner Robins High School

Also recognized during the event as a Teacher of the Year were:

Bonaire Elementary School	Kaitlyn Thompson
Bonaire Middle School	Alison Kessler
Bonaire Primary School	Jancy Caldwell
C.B. Watson Primary School	Kyle Davis
Centerville Elementary School.....	Andrea Sanford
David Perdue Elementary School.....	Ebony Lassiter
David Perdue Primary School.....	Korree Loving
Eagle Springs Elementary School	Holly Johnson
Feagin Mill Middle School.....	Keshia Brown
Houston County High School.....	Kedra Gay
Houston County WIN Academy	Tristian Hatcher
Huntington Middle School.....	Valerie Clark-Lee
Kings Chapel Elementary School	Rachel Green
Lake Joy Elementary School	Laura Leigh Wetsel, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Lake Joy Primary School.....	Robin Burks
Langston Road Elementary School	Katie Frankhouser, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Langston Road Primary School	Dr. Casie Dougharty
Matt Arthur Elementary School.....	Christen Pass
Matt Arthur Primary School.....	Gary Williams, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Miller Elementary School	RheAnna West
Morningside Elementary School	Shacandice Blackshear
Mossy Creek Middle School	Terry Bragg
Northside High School	Latoya Frazier
Northside Middle School.....	Yakima Smith
Parkwood Primary School	Marianne Rudziak
Pearl Stephens Elementary School	Dawn Mabry
Perry Middle School	Randy Mizell, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Quail Run Elementary School.....	Rebekah Boyd
Russell Elementary School.....	Jessi Lewis
Shirley Hills Elementary School	Brianne Poole
Thomson Middle School	Curtis Martin
Tucker Elementary School.....	Amber Tyo
Veterans High School	Renee Shelton
Warner Robins High School	Jamie Mayhew, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Warner Robins Middle School	Jasmine Young, Top 10 Semi-finalist
Westside Elementary School.....	Sharkethia Brown

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Gifted Teacher of the YearPeaches Tankersley, Matt Arthur Elementary School
Media Specialist of the Year Brette Callaway, Pearl Stephens Elementary School

At the same program, the District announced the School-level and District-level Support Person of the Year.

Callie Johnston, a fleet manager from the Transportation Department, was selected as the District-level Support Person of the Year, and Bonita Boland, a custodian from Perry High School, was selected as the School-level Support Person of the Year.

Additional District-level Support Person of the Year finalists included:

District & School Effectiveness Tamara Jacobs
Human Resources & District Operations Betty Hassoun
Student Services Abbie White
Superintendent/Deputy Superintendent's Office Leo Alvarez
Teaching & Learning Wesley Coffee

Additional School-level Support Person of the Year finalists included:

David Perdue Primary School..... Meredith Shackleford
Eagle Springs Elementary School Elizabeth O’Gorman
Houston County High School.....Debra Kratz
Lake Joy Primary School.....Rosalyn Hession

Premier Sponsors included the Development Authority of Houston County, Emory Healthcare, Flint Energies, H.E.A. Federal Credit Union, PBK Architects, Parrish Construction, The Roderick Group, Southside Baptist Church, Totem Business Solutions and Yancy Bus Sales & Service. Signature Sponsors included Central Georgia Technical College and Robins Financial Credit Union. Gold Sponsors were Audio Enhancement, Brown’s Eye Center – Highway 96, Corebridge Financial, Cox Communications, and Synovus.

As the Houston County School District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Walker was presented the keys to a car to be driven for a year, compliments of Wingate Ford in Perry. More than 50 local businesses and community organizations donated other gifts for the Teachers of the Year and the Support Person of the Year finalists. A full list of contributors can be found on our website at www.hcbe.net/openingsession.

A full video of Opening Session can be found on [the Houston County School District’s Facebook page](#).

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Pictured (from left): Brianna Walker, 2026-2027 Houston County Teacher of the Year; Callie Johnston, 2026-2027 District-level Support Person of the Year; and Bonita Boland, 2026-2027 School-level Support Person of the Year with Dr. Richard Rogers, Superintendent of Schools

