

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

High-Leverage Practices in Special Education

Forty-eight teachers participated in the fourth session of the Special Education Teacher Induction on November 8th. Dr. Karen Jones, Mrs. Daphne Whetsel, and Mrs. Cindy Harkins focused on “High Leverage Practices for Inclusive Classrooms”, in the first of this two part series. Participants learned fundamental practices for supporting student learning. Topics included practices in collaboration, assessment, social/emotional behavior, and instructional strategies. Teachers engaged in vital conversations regarding evidence based practices, completed self-assessments, and participated in case study reviews to demonstrate understanding. Resources from this learning session, as well as additional professional development materials, were shared with participants through Google Classroom.



ASPIRE AWARDS



The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) recognized 47 key people and organizations for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get “off the sidelines and into the game.” The Fourth Annual ASPIRE Awards Celebration, emceed by radio personality and program director Dennis Winslow, was held Sunday, October 23rd at Maggiano’s Little Italy. Karin Korb, 2-time Paralympian, was the guest speaker. Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Awards recognize the significant contributions of these individuals and organizations that have been central to the mission of making adapted sports programming available nationwide. Through these programs, student athletes with physical disabilities across the country reap the physical, social, emotional, and academic benefits of competitive athletics, resulting in personal and social empowerment. Congratulations to our Houston County Sharks staff and athletes who were recognized as 2022 Aspire Award Winners!





Elianna Stevens



Marvin James

Pictured are Elianna Stephens-2022 Female Athlete of the Year; Anna Henry-2022 Coach of the Year; Christa Hartman- 2022 Volunteer of the Year; Marvin James-2022 Media Hero of the Year (Channel 13 WMAZ). Other nominees were Dylan Thompson- Male Athlete of the Year; Langley Yoh - Sr. Athlete of the Year; Melissa Ring-Hartman-Coach of the Year; and Brother Jerry Walls of Southside Baptist Church-Volunteer of the Year.



Christa Hartman



Anna Henry

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Our teacher spotlight this month is on Sheila Jones from Perry Middle School. Houston County has always been home to Mrs. Jones, who was born and raised in Warner Robins. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Special Education from Georgia Southern University. She has a total of 17 years teaching experience, with the last four years teaching self-contained MID at Perry Middle. Inspired by being an active member of Partner's Club while in school, Mrs. Jones knew she wanted to be a special education teacher! Some of her best memories in high school included going to special Olympics and building relationships with students who had special needs. Her favorite part of teaching is watching her students grow. Her joy comes when a student's face lights up and finally understands a concept they have been struggling to grasp. She loves teaching adult daily living skills to ensure her students become successful in the real world. Mrs. Jones' students work at the Pit Stop, Perry Middle School's Coffee Shop, where they learn counting, stocking, and financial skills. We are so thankful Mrs. Jones is part of our family in Houston County. Her dedication and enthusiasm for her students is evident to everyone who knows her!



Lindsey Student Support Center



What Happens To Students With Disabilities AFTER GRADUATION?

GEORGIA'S MEDICAID NOW/COMP WAIVER PROGRAM

The Georgia Medicaid NOW/COMP Waiver can help bridge the gap and aid in transition by offering Home, Respite, and Community Based Services.

INFORMATION SESSION

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20th
11:00AM-12:00PM & 5:30PM-6:30PM

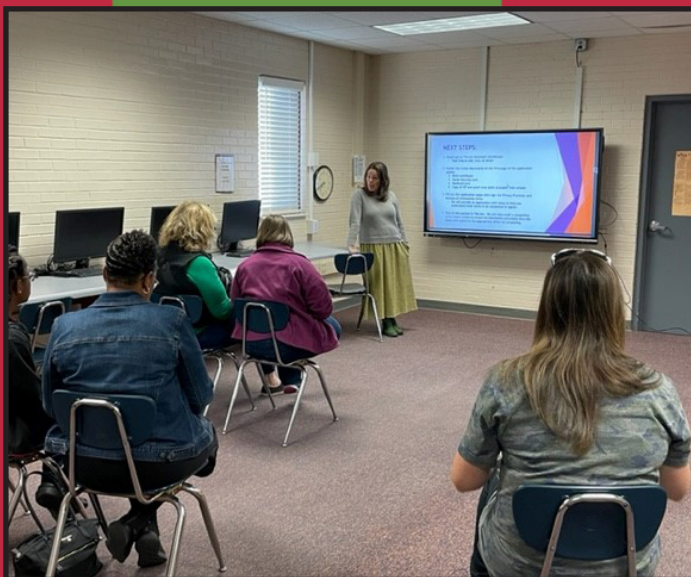
The Arc Macon

Lindsey Student Support Center
81 Tabor Drive Warner Robins, 31093

Marina Jones Parent Mentor
For more details: 478-396-1784 Email: marina.jones@hcbe.net

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Many parents of children with disabilities worry about what resources will be available for their child after they graduate from school. The NOW/COMP Waiver workshop was held at the Lindsey Student Support Center on October 20th. Tia Pike, from The Arc in Macon, and Marina Jones, Parent Mentor for Houston County School District, highlighted the benefits of Georgia's Medicaid Waiver Program. Parents received information on the NOW/COMP Waiver Program. This program offers funding and support to bridge the gap and aid in transition by offering home, respite and community based services. With Mrs. Pike's guidance, each parent in attendance completed the application process. Thank you Ms. Pike and The Arc for assisting and supporting our families to better the lives of our students. Here, we grow...more training opportunities for parents at the Lindsey Student Support Center.



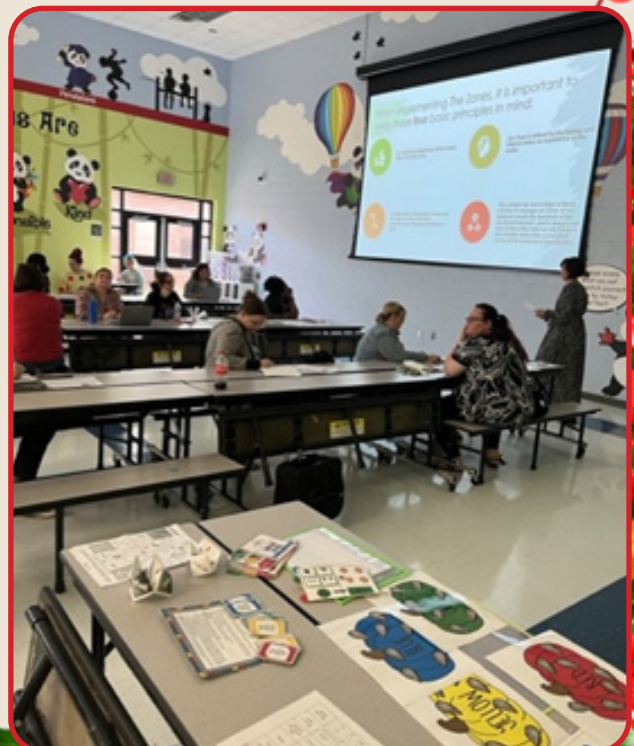
The Lindsey Student Support Center, in collaboration with Houston Healthcare's EduCare Program, hosted the first cooking class for middle and high school students on November 14th. The focus was *Filling Your Plate with Color, Helps Fill Your Body with Nutrients*. Twelve students participated in the lesson which concluded with students making vegetable wraps. Students raved about the lesson and enjoyed trying new foods. Student comments included: "I loved the class"; "It is amazing how you are helping young children and families"; "I loved the lesson before we started making the food"; "I had lots of fun"; and "This was a super fun activity". Thank you to the representatives from Houston Healthcare's EduCare Program!



ZONES OF REGULATION: SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH THE ZONES



The Autism and Behavior Intervention Team have distributed Zones of Regulation materials throughout our district this school year. Zones of Regulation is a cognitive behavioral approach to teaching self-regulation and emotional control that is based on immense evidence in the fields of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), attention deficit disorders (ADD/HD) and social-emotional theories. The goal is to provide our students with a thinking framework, a way to nurture their development, and create a consistent language for staff and students across all settings. The team provided two training opportunities after school on October 25th and 27th for teachers to obtain more information on how to implement the approach and offered examples of supplemental resources to aid in implementation. There were approximately 40 special education teachers in attendance at both trainings. We would like to send a special thank you to Houston County High School and David Perdue Primary School for hosting this training.



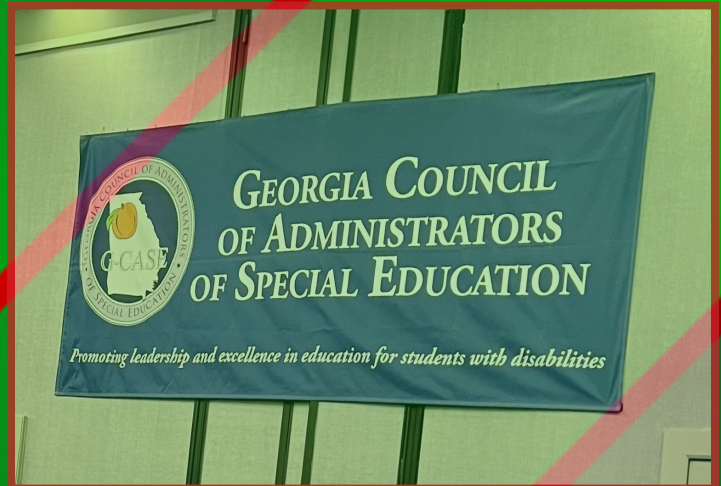
It's a great time to be a Shark... especially since they clinched their 12th State Championship Title at the AAASP State Handball Championship! This is the second consecutive Varsity State Championship Handball Title. The Sharks have won 31 combined sports State Championship Titles since 2008! Notable offensive standout was Jaquavious West (WRHS) who led the Sharks to a 7-2 win over the West Georgia Wolverines. The defense held strong under the leadership of Ca'Ron Harris (VHS) and Anthony Cuti (HCHS). Next up for the Sharks is their run for another championship in basketball. We look forward to another great season and as always, Go Sharks!!!



American Association of
adaptedSPORTS
PROGRAMS®

The Houston County Sharks Junior Varsity played in Gwinnett County at the AAASP State Handball Tournament on November 5th. The JV Sharks played two games. In the first game against the Muscogee Lions, the sharks were victorious with a final score of 5-1. Champ Ryan was the lead scorer, and the exceptionally tough defense was led by Jaden Screen and Madison Ryan, who had big defensive steals. It was the Sharks against the Gwinnett Heat for game two. The Sharks played a good game but struggled to contain Gwinnett's offense. The Sharks ended with a 7-4 loss. The Sharks finished their Handball season in 2nd Place with a record of 4-3. Caden Nelson was the lead scorer for the Sharks. We are so proud of our JV players hard work and dedication!





The Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education (G-CASE) Fall 2022 Conference was held November 16-18th in Savannah, Georgia. Houston County's own Dr. Steven Hornyak, Monica Smith, and Tangela Brice had the honor to present on *Preventing Fires: Moving Away from Wait-to-Fail Approaches*. This presentation explored the proactive approaches the Houston County School District is utilizing for behavioral interventions. The focus was on The Student Risk Screening Scale-Internalizing and Externalizing (SRSS-IE) which is a universal behavior screening tool completed by teachers. Behavior screeners are a proactive way for teachers to identify behaviors in the classroom that may be obstacles to learning. The audience explored ways to interpret screener results and how to use the data to implement interventions. We are proud our district was represented at G-CASE!





Thanksgiving Meal Day

Thanksgiving meal day has always been a special event in the school nutrition world. It is one of the few days each school gets to showcase their beloved family recipes by preparing a holiday meal for students. Hundreds of pounds of dressing were prepared from scratch all across our county, then served with dishes such as turkey, gravy, squash casserole, sweet potato soufflé, collard greens, and cranberry sauce just to name a few! It is truly a time of celebration and gratitude for the blessings we are given. It is our pleasure to be serving our students every day. Happy Thanksgiving from our kitchens to yours!

