



THE SCOOP@ THE STEW

OCTOBER 2023



DR. MICHAEL ROBINSON

SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Knights Community:

We are off to a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! As we complete the beginning of the year and move into November, I want to let all of you know that I am encouraged by the effort, cooperation, and hard work I have seen from our scholars so far this year. This hard work is the kind of effort each of them must maintain to be College and Career Ready. I am also equally pleased by the hard work and dedication of the educators here in the Stewart County School District for ensuring that instructional lessons are rigorous, engaging, and differentiated for all learners. I value them and the expertise they bring to our learning environment! To this end, all stakeholder contributions assist us in meeting our overall goal and the vision of our district. Our mission is to provide a quality education to ALL scholars, which prepares us to become one of the highest performing rural school districts in Georgia. ALL students to live and compete successfully in a global society.

Parents and guardians, please continue to reinforce good attendance habits with scholar(s). Attendance and accuracy of attendance is a vital component of a successful school year. Excessive absences may result in missing work, which is difficult to make up, losing continuity in school work, an irresponsible attitude toward daily obligations, and failure in school. Additionally, please be sure to check our school website regularly for up-to-date important information. For example, some of the items included on our district website are our calendar of events and our teacher web pages which contain valuable information.

Our school wouldn't be the same without the generosity and active support of our parents and community organizations. I invite you to take a leadership role and make a difference! I encourage you to be involved in our schools by working with your scholars at home, encouraging academic excellence and responsibility, and taking part in volunteer groups such as the PTO and Councils.

Thank you for everything you do to support our scholars, the teachers, and our community!

Educationally yours,

Michael H. Robinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent



A MESSAGE FROM:

Superintendent

Principal

Elementary School AP

High School AP

Academic Coach

Technology

Transportation

Special Education

Testing/Assessment

Nutrition

Mental Health

Federal Programs

Athletics

Counseling

21st Century

Pre-K

CTAE

Media

Family

Social

DR. LE LANG

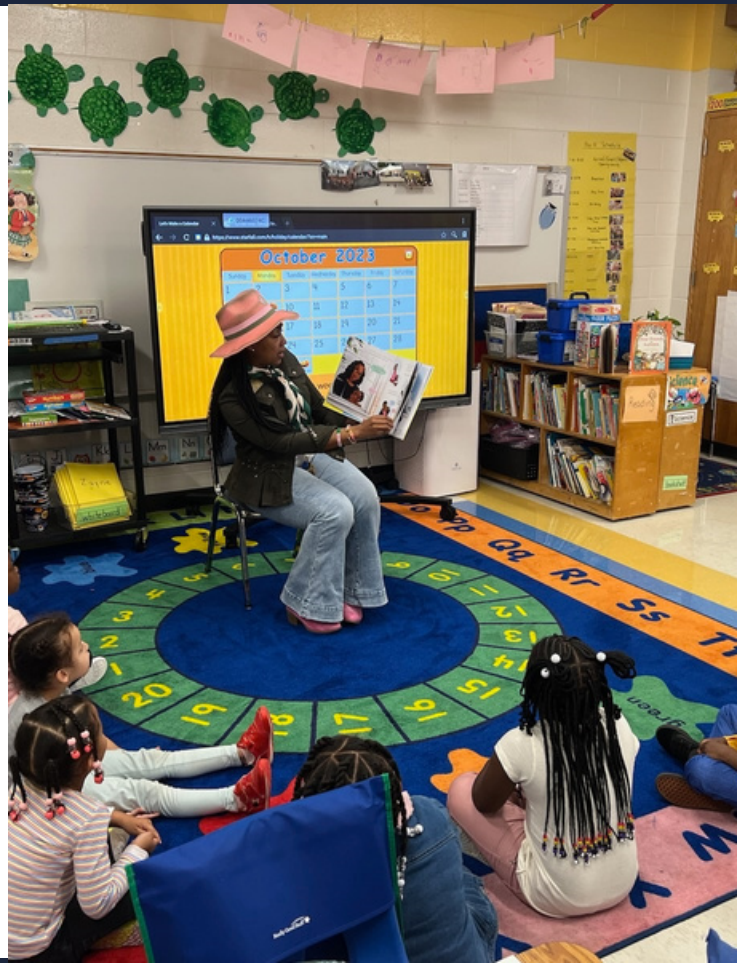
**PRINCIPAL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM,
INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Greetings Knights Community Family,

I'm excited to share that our school team is working hard to help scholars achieve academically. We are specifically working on increasing the Lexile Levels of all scholars. We had our Reading Kickoff earlier this semester and every Pre-K - 5th grade scholar received a book. Our most recent Achieve 3000 school wide assembly was a success! Scholars were informed about the monthly celebrations we are going to have as an incentive when they read a minimum of (4) articles a month. We recognized 25 scholars who are College and Career Ready during our school wide assembly.

In an effort to keep our goal of increasing Lexile Levels, we are keeping scholar data front and center because we are focused and intentional about academic success. To that end, all scholars completed Universal Screeners to get their baseline data. The best part of this is that they now have Scholar Data Notebooks and they've been meeting with their teachers and our Data Coach to discuss their data. This allows scholars to be aware of how they are performing academically and to set goals for the next level.

We are now celebrating Pre-K Week (October 2-6, 2023) and the theme for the entire week is about reading. Community members, partners, high school scholars and other stakeholders have come to Stewart County Elementary School to read to our Pre-K scholars. Parents and guardians, we would like you to help write a new narrative about the Stewart County School District. I believe in our scholars and the dynamic team of educators serving in the district. I am asking you to continuously come to the building and get involved with our scholars' education. If you've not met with your scholar's teachers, please contact one of our school counselors, Ms. Ashford or Ms. Norris to schedule a Parent Teacher Conference. Make it a point to come to Parent Night Conversations. Get involved with our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) today! Go to the District website for the most recent information about upcoming events.



PAULETTE WHITE

**Assistant Principal
Elementary**

Off to a Great STEW Start!



As we embark on a new school year, the teachers and scholars are actively learning a new curriculum for reading and perfecting the delivery of the new math standards. In grades kindergarten through fifth, the HMH Reading program is providing teachers with strategies and resources to close reading gaps and to enhance language and vocabulary skills. Grades K - 8 are building conceptual understanding using manipulatives and evoking great dialogue using tasks in mathematics. Differentiated instructions and small groups are essential to progress and closing gaps.

We are anxious expecting great results for our awesome SCHOLARS!

DR. BUSANI

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL HIGH SCHOOL /
FACILITIES /MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR**

Another year has passed and the Stewart County Schools facilities environment continues to improve. Keeping the facility well-maintained can prevent small problems from turning into big ones. The changes on our school campus don't just happen on their own. It takes good leadership and positive attitudes to maintain and keep the facility up to standard.

The department had one of its team members; Breman Thomas, to retire after working for the system for years. In addition, Andreacous Latimer joined the team. He is a team player and eager to learn about the daily operations of our facility. The department also added one additional employee to the department; Eddie Robinson. Eddie is a hard worker and never complains about anything. He was also the department's Knight Spotlight for the month of September. We continue to employ dedicated workers who are from the community.

There has also been a significant upgrade in our security system within the past year. Entry points have been upgraded with the latest technology. New machines have also been purchased to help improve the efficiency and ensure better results when cleaning and sanitizing. The entire team continues to focus on providing the best service for the school system. They are very proud of what they do and they do it very well.



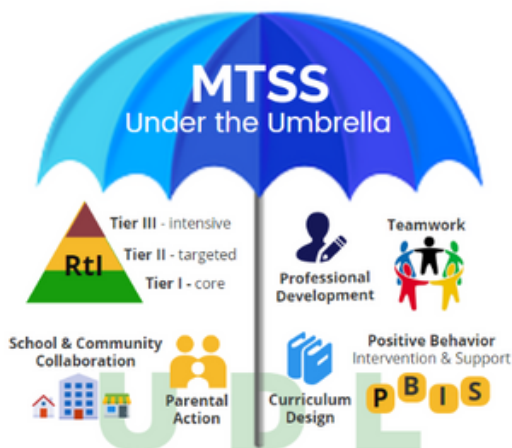
ALESHA ALLEN

**ACADEMIC COACH AND
MTSS/RTI COORDINATOR**

I am happy to say the 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start! My name is Ms. Alesha Allen, and I'm honored to be serving as the school district's Academic Coach and MTSS/RTI Coordinator. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share an overview of the MTSS/ RTI implementation plan.

All of our scholars, regardless of need and achievement level, deserve to be supported academically and socially and to develop a sense of belonging and confidence. My job is to support staff and administration through the use of data in the process of identifying and supporting every scholar. The Stewart County School District (SCSD) strives to cultivate an empowering culture by providing scholars with research-based curriculum and interventions, rigorous and effective teaching, and early identification of academic and behavioral needs to ensure lifelong scholar success.

To achieve these goals, SCSD utilizes a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) that integrates a unified preventative response and service delivery model that recognizes the joint influence of academic, social, and behavioral functioning on educational performance. At its heart, MTSS is designed as a school improvement initiative to support better educational outcomes such as increasing graduation rates and ensuring that our scholars are college and career-ready. This process is structured to enable all students to learn and achieve high academic and behavioral standards while meeting individual student needs, consistent with the district's commitment to educational excellence.



MTSS is "the practice of providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about changes in instruction or goals, and applying child response data to important educational decisions" (Batsche et al., 2005).

CHRIS USREY

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

The Technology Department at Stewart County Schools is excited to announce that we were able to receive the funding applied for last school year and have been able to install all new 75 inch interactive displays in all of our High School Classrooms and now the entire district has them in all classrooms. Also we were able to purchase new laptops for all of our Teachers and updated 24 computers in our elementary lab. Along with all the updates listed above we were able to take advantage of a Department of Education grant and used the funding to replace our aging WIFI infrastructure and purchased brand new ARUBA Wireless Access Points in every classroom and public areas including the media center, gyms, and cafeteria. This wireless upgrade will insure that Stewart County Schools can provide high quality internet access for all of our students, faculty, and staff for years to come.

Other items that we are looking at updating are our security cameras and internal network infrastructure and hopefully we will have those pieces in place before year's end but the teacher devices and interactive displays were our priority to make sure that classroom instruction and teacher needs were met first before focusing on other projects!



DARRYL JONES

TRANSPORTATION
DIRECTOR



Prior to the beginning of the school year, our bus drivers and monitors completed their mandatory annual Safety Renewal Educational Program. This program consists of an annual physical from the Georgia Department of Education along with different guidelines and regulations for them to be qualified to drive the school bus. October 16th-20th, the Stewart County School District will give recognition and appreciation to the bus drivers for School Bus Safety Week and Bus Driver Appreciation Day. In addition, scholars will take part in emergency evacuation drills that consist of the reasons to evacuate, the type of ways to evacuate and instructions when evacuating the school bus. Our scholars are consistently learning how to behave at the bus stop, how to safely ride the school bus, and they are reminded daily of the school bus rules for their safety.

BAILEE STOVALL-SMITH

SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

Stewart County School System offers a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all children, ages 3-21, who reside in Stewart County and who are identified as having a disability. The mission of Stewart County School System's Program for Exceptional Students is to graduate all scholars with disabilities by offering a challenging educational program. We are committed to increasing academic performance and preparing scholars for employment and independent living after graduating from high school.

Some of our high school scholars have recently started working directly with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Participating scholars will receive pre-employment transition services which include: job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, workplace readiness training, and counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs.

For more information regarding Stewart County School System's Program for Exceptional Students, please contact Bailee Smith at (229) 838-4301 or bstovall@stewart.k12.ga.us.



AISHA EVANS

DIRECTOR OF TESTING
AND ASSESMENT



Stewart County Schools has pushed towards making sure testing and universal screeners are completed in a timely manner. During this time scholars have completed the beginning of the year assessments in the following areas: Acadience (DIBELS), GKIDS Readiness Check, PALS, PPVT, and HMH Reading & Math Growth Measure. The district is better prepared to identify scholar needs and implement plans for improving academic achievement.

The district has a structured plan of implementing scholar data notebooks. Each scholar has their own personal notebook with data from tests, quizzes, and universal screeners. Scholars are having Data Talks with the Data Coach as well as their teachers. These in-depth conversations allow scholars to discuss their data and learn about their academic strengths and needs. In these conversations, scholars receive an eye-opening experience with the results from the universal screeners and are able to better understand how they can improve. Scholars have also set goals and strategies for attaining those goals. After the second round of screeners, scholars will have the opportunity to evaluate themselves academically and determine whether they have met their goals.



MONA HUBBARD

NUTRITION DIRECTOR

Update from the Knights Cafe!!

Fresh Salads!! We offer freshly made salads with various toppings and meats. The salads are made to each person's wishes. However, we must provide the required items for the scholars and they too are able to add more condiments to enhance their freshly made salad. We have community members also purchasing salads as well. Our salads are delicious and are priced reasonably. So, we would like to encourage you to come by if you haven't already and get you a salad, made fresh for you.



PATTI MCDONALD

SCHOOL NURSE

Welcome back to school. We have had a busy first month. We have had a lot of scholars with Strep throat and Flu. Prevent Blindness was here on September 11th and screened Pre-k and Kindergarten. If you have a scholar in need of replacement glasses, please reach out to me. We will be having our Scoliosis Screening soon for 5th and 7th grade scholars. Information will be sent home once the date is scheduled. Please check out the nurse's page on the school website.

Forms and information are available to review and print out if needed. Parents/Guardians should complete the student Health information/Over the counter Medication form if they have not done so. Looking forward to a great school year.



DEMETRIA NORRIS

DEMETRIA NORRIS
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

My name is Demetria Norris and I am the SEL/ Mental Health Counselor for the Stewart County School District. My role is to make sure that our scholars come to school every day and make sure that the social and emotional needs of our scholars are met. Social emotional learning (SEL) is the process by which people acquire, obtain, and execute the knowledge, attitudes, and skills that are needed to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, demonstrate empathy, build and maintain happy and healthy relationships, and make sound choices.

Social emotional learning enables students to be more prepared for college and post-secondary workforce endeavors. Scholars who possess these skills are better able to resolve conflict, communicate, take on leadership roles, assume responsibility/accountability, are more able to manage time and stress, problem solve, have a more optimistic mindset, as well as are able to collaborate and work efficiently with others. This is critical to productivity and efficiency. Along with making sure their social and emotional needs are met, I also monitor school attendance and work with school administrators, students, parents, and the school support team with a focus on keeping scholars in school, improving scholar and school attendance rates and educating staff and families. I look forward to serving the scholars and parents of the Stewart County School District.



MARKUS TAYLOR

Federal Programs Director

The Stewart County School District will be conducting input meetings to get feedback on how the district should use their ESSER funds and how interventions will improve Stewart County Schools.

Markus Taylor is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ESSER Review Meeting

Time: Oct 17, 2023 10:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87394844531?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87394844531?pwd=0T2ZbsXGKD6wKkVCGMAnMvdFcN262T.1)

[pwd=0T2ZbsXGKD6wKkVCGMAnMvdFcN26](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/87394844531?pwd=0T2ZbsXGKD6wKkVCGMAnMvdFcN262T.1)

2T.1

Markus Taylor is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ESSER Review Meeting

Time: Oct 19, 2023 11:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83818055011?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83818055011?pwd=6h8ZFb2lYTVa89S0rPab3jiJb2n8DJ.1)

[pwd=6h8ZFb2lYTVa89S0rPab3jiJb2n8DJ.1](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83818055011?pwd=6h8ZFb2lYTVa89S0rPab3jiJb2n8DJ.1)

Please complete ESSER Survey with link below.
ESSER Feedback Survey



CALVIN THOMAS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Lady Knights' Volleyball have had a GREAT season with victories and defeats. They had victories in Brook County and Quitman County. Tournament action will begin soon

Middle School Football has begun their season. They were victorious on the road against the Pacelli Vikings. Middle School Knights have two more games before their season will be complete both being road games to Columbus, Ga. and Edison, Ga.

Varsity Football and Coach Davis opened their schedule with a victory against Notre Dame in Duluth, Ga. The season promises more victories.

Track Championship Ring/Banner Ceremony for Chavondria Crimes was held with the receiving of the state ring and banner.



CHERRIKA ASHFORD

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

• RESPECTFUL
• RESPONSIBLE
• READY TO LEARN

The Counseling Corner

The school year is off to a great start and the counseling department has been working collaboratively with all to help foster a school climate conducive to increasing academic achievement. One of the avenues utilized is through PBIS which stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. We had an awesome Kickoff week where the scholars had an opportunity to combat negative choices by wearing camouflage and also wear blue and gold to team up for positive behaviors.

Another avenue that the counseling department has utilized is bringing in different speakers and organizations to help expose our scholars to different careers and learn financial literacy. Ms. Kim Thomas, Co-Owner of Omacare Home Services, spoke with scholars interested in being in the medical field. Five Star Credit Union sponsored a lunch and learn for our Seniors to learn about banking, credit, and other topics to increase their financial literacy. There is much more in store this school year for the scholars from the counseling department as we assist scholars to become college and career ready as they graduate Stewart County High School.



TAWNYA HADLEY

21ST CCLC PROGRAM
DIRECTOR

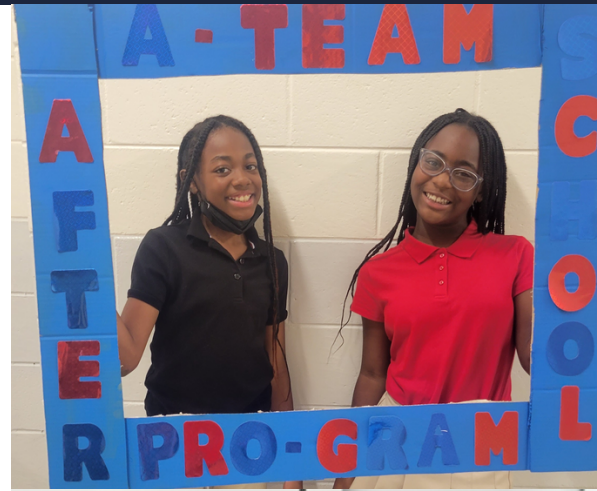
The A-TEAM Afterschool Program

Academic Tutorial Enrichment and mentoring Program
Welcome Back!

The A-TEAM is for learning, fun, and a whole lot more! The A-TEAM kicked off on August 24, 2023. It takes a lot to live up to a name like A-TEAM. How do we do it? We start by showing up every day to get our scholars motivated and ready for the journey ahead. We make space for them to explore their curiosities, and embrace their creativity. The A-TEAM meets Monday -Thursday from 3:30-6:30. Scholars are fed a snack and a delicious supper every day! Our first field trip was to the Jurassic World Exhibition in Atlanta. Check out the school's web page and Facebook for our upcoming events!

Thanks,

Mrs. Hadley



TAWNYA HADLEY

PRE-K DIRECTOR



Pre-K News

Things to Remember:

Pre-K will be visiting Parks Memorial Library monthly

- Georgia Pre-K Week is October 2nd -6th a flyer will be sent home
- October 5, 2023 field trip to Springer Opera House to see the play "Itsy Bitsy Spider"
- October 18, 2023 field trip to Marks Melon Patch

Pre-K Kicked off the School Year learning about the following:

- Getting familiar with rituals and routines
- Learning All About Themselves
- Their five Senses and the importance of Community Helpers!

Reminders:

Please remember to check your scholar's folder for their daily sheets and important classroom information

Happy October!

September was such a beautiful month with just a hint of Fall weather. On that note, the weather will continue to become chillier, so please make sure your child has seasonally appropriate clothing in their book bag, as well as, a sweater or sweatshirt for chilly days on the playground.



NICOLE MALLORY

CTAE DIRECTOR

Work-based learning and other senior scholars learned about scholarships. Randae Davis, the Executive Director, Darton Health Professions Foundation discussed completing the FAFSA and the required documents. He also talked to scholars about scholarships that are available to them. He explained the difference between scholarships, grants and loans. Scholars were shown the average cost of college. Scholars were also given tips on scholarship essays. In closing, he provided tips to scholars about what to do if you receive the scholarship and if you don't.

Work Based Learning and other Senior Scholars Learned about Financial Literacy from employees from Five Star Credit Union. Scholars were given information on types of financial institutions, banking basics, opening accounts and online banking.



CRYSTAL TOWNSEND

Media Specialist



Our annual Literacy Kick-off was held on August 24th. The Literacy Kick-off was held in order to raise awareness about the importance of reading and to inspire scholars and families to make reading a part of their daily routines. The kick-off included a space theme to represent "reading takes you out of this world" The literacy kick-off consisted of costumes, free books, reading activities, games, and a surprise visit from Columbus Tech's mascot, Thrasher. Scholars enjoyed the different reading stations as well as meeting their local librarian.



The media center has also had some comfy upgrades this year to include bean bags, rocking chairs, desktops, and so much more.

The goal in the media center is to motivate and promote a love, and understanding for reading so that scholars can be lifelong READERS!

SHARON JONES

PARENT FACILITATOR

Parent Involvement is encouraging parents to be a part of our PTO/Parent Conversation meeting this year. Our 1 st meeting included the "State of the School District" address; along with fundraising ideas. During the month of September, we had our annual Title I meeting. The PTO is also preparing for our Fall Festival which will be held in the month of October. We will end the year with our Family Engagement Event in the month of November.

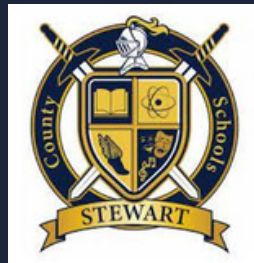


SOCIAL MEDIA

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