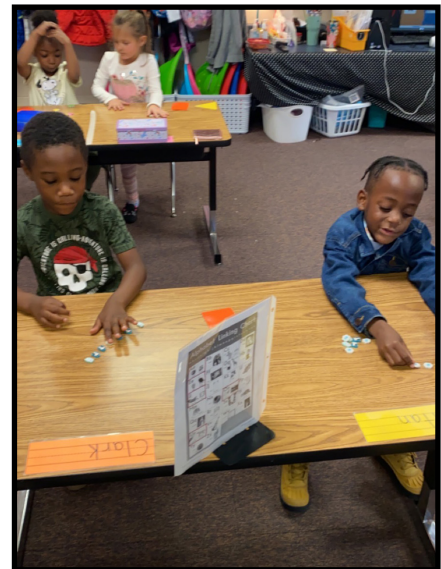


STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

“All means All”

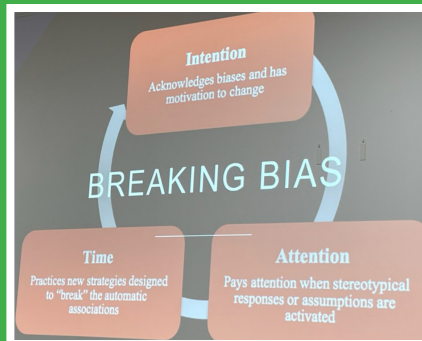
David Perdue Primary relaunched their collective commitments with the entire staff in January. One area of focus was to be more intentional with PAW (Positive Academic Win) time. As a grade level, kindergarten is using MAP fluency data to group students within the foundational domains of Phonemic Awareness and Phonics. In math, they are analyzing iReady winter diagnostic results.

As a result, the kindergarten collaborative teams also reviewed Transition Kindergarten student data and grouped students appropriately. Ms. Boyd, Transition Kindergarten Teacher, and her paraprofessional are included in the PAW rotation. Students are assigned a color to quickly and quietly make the transition to other classrooms during PAW time. All students are working hard to show growth and academic success. The kindergarten collaborative team has truly understood “All means All!”



Project AWARE

Project AWARE hosted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training on February 3rd and 4th. The training was conducted by Sandra Y. G. Jones, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Valdosta State University. Members of the Student Services Department, as well as Executive Cabinet, engaged in interactive sessions aimed at increasing cultural awareness, competence, and humility. Participants also explored the true meanings of equality, equity, and justice as they relate to educating the whole child.



Scoliosis Screening

Georgia law requires screening for Scoliosis of public school children annually for a minimum of two grades during early adolescence. Scoliosis is a curvature of the spine greater than 10 degrees. An unsymmetrical shoulder elevation, shoulder blade protrusion, waist fold or arm hang distance can be signs of a significant spine curve. All students screened and found to show signs and symptoms are reported to the Health Department, who contacts parents for follow up. According to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, around 2% to 3% of children have scoliosis, with around three million cases diagnosed annually. Screenings, and referring students early, for signs of Scoliosis are very important in preventing future conditions related to posture, compression of the spine, and pulmonary issues.

In cooperation with the Health Department, the school nurses screened all 6th and 8th grade students for Scoliosis from February 14th-18th, 2022. A total of 4136 students were screened across the county. The process was a success because of the teamwork and assistance from the school health techs and staff at the middle schools, Houston County WIN Academy, and the Behavior Support Program at Lindsey.

PARAPROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

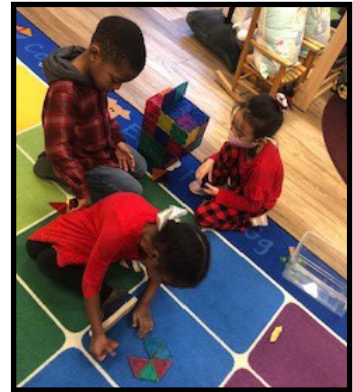


This month we spotlight Mrs. Lynn Harrison, an interrelated paraprofessional at Feagin Mill Middle. Her positive attitude, incredible work ethic, and love for helping others never goes unnoticed. Mrs. Harrison was a substitute teacher for Houston County School District for three years before becoming a paraprofessional in 2021. She has been a valuable asset to FMMS. She goes above and beyond, not only helping all students, but assisting all staff members as well. Mrs. Harrison is very proactive and dedicated to help meet the needs of those she serves. When asked why she chose to be a paraprofessional, Mrs. Harrison shared, "I chose this profession because I enjoy working with middle school students. Watching how they improve throughout the year and knowing that I helped the students grow and develop is very rewarding to me." Mrs. Harrison has been married to her husband, Hinton, for 31 years. Their son, Hank, is a seventh grade social studies teacher at Perry Middle School.

New Teacher Induction Professional Learning

On Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 25 induction level special education teachers participated in virtual professional learning. Kristen Peaster, School Psychologist, and Monica Smith, Coordinator of Student Services, presented information on the re-evaluation process and eligibility determination procedures. They specifically focused on increasing understanding of the twelve areas of Special Education Eligibility. Teachers also received resources about the various assessments used in Houston County when conducting a psycho-educational evaluation. Patrick Thomas, Transition Teacher for the district, informed the participants about topics that should be discussed with parents when developing transition plans. He spent some time discussing post-secondary options for our students. These options could include technical school, college, or inclusive post secondary education programs. He also explained some of the resources that are available to assist our students after graduation which include the Now/Comp Waiver and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Preschoolers Love Learning!



The Houston County School District (HCSD) partners with Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) Child Development Center to support two 4 year old preschool inclusion classrooms.

Houston County preschool students with disabilities participate in the program. Ms. Carolyn Brantley, HCSD Teacher, and Ms. Rosa Garcia, HCSD Paraprofessional, collaborate with CGTC Child Development Center Preschool Teachers to provide a rich learning environment for students.

Inclusion means teaching all children together, regardless of their ability as well as celebrating children's similarities. Research has indicated many positive outcomes of these programs including:

- Access to high quality teaching practices and increased rigor.
- Improved performance in literacy and mathematic.
- Increased opportunities for explicit and incidental learning.
- Improved social skills.
- Increased attendance.



New Faces in School Nutrition



This year, there are a few fresh faces on our managerial team!



Brandi Smith is the new cafeteria manager of Warner Robins Middle. Brandi is a graduate of Northside High and was their mascot during high school. She has successfully transitioned her team spirit to the Warrior Way! She is a motivated, hardworking individual who not only does a great job leading Warner Robins Middle's Cafeteria staff but is also PTO president at Centerville Elementary. Additionally, she owns a photography business!

Amy Twigg is the new cafeteria manager of Quail Run Elementary. She is self-described as the one who talks funny (she is British) and has a love for all things Harry Potter. Ms. Twigg has a background in sales and inventory management. She is super creative and has already showcased her art skills with elaborate décor in her cafeteria for several promotions and special events!



Morgan Hamel is the new cafeteria manager of Northside High. Morgan is a seasoned food service manager with several years of experience at O'Charleys before transitioning to school nutrition. Her leadership and care for students and employees is evident. She is doing an excellent job at Northside High!

We are anticipating great things from each of these new managers!

Special Olympics Announcement

Houston County Special Olympics is excited to announce that Spring Games will be hosted at Perry High School March 16th-18th. This is always an exciting time for our students and staff. Our students will compete in Level A activities, Track & Field and Volleyball. Opening Ceremonies for this event are scheduled for 10:00 am.

