



# THE SCOOP@ THE STEW

FEBRUARY 2024



## DR. MICHAEL ROBINSON

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Stewart County Community:

As we enter the new year, I am delighted to share some important updates regarding our ongoing efforts to enhance the educational experience for our students.

One of the highlights of our progress is the recent launch of our 2024-2027 strategic plan, which serves as a roadmap for our collective aspirations and objectives for the next three years. This comprehensive document outlines our commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and the overall growth of our students.

You can access the full strategic plan by following the link below:

<https://content.myconnectsuite.com/api/documents/a343bbf30c284b72a7cfc23a79d58bd3.pdf>

Our focus on student achievement remains unwavering as we diligently work towards preparing our scholars for the Spring 2024 Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) testing. We recognize the importance of providing a well-rounded education that meets academic standards and instills critical thinking, creativity, and resilience in our students.

We have implemented several initiatives to foster a positive and supportive learning environment to achieve these goals. Our dedicated team of educators continues to collaborate, innovate, and adapt instructional strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students.

I want to express my gratitude to our incredible staff, students, parents, and community partners for their ongoing commitment to the success of the Stewart County School District. Your dedication is the driving force behind our achievements, and I am confident that with our collective efforts, we will continue to make significant strides toward excellence.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students in the upcoming months.

Best regards!

Michael H. Robinson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## A MESSAGE FROM:

**Superintendent**

**Principal**

**Elementary School (AP)**

**High School (AP)/Facilities  
Maintenance**

**Testing/Assessment**

**Technology**

**Transportation**

**Nutrition**

**Nurse**

**Mental Health**

**Federal Programs**

**Athletics**

**Counseling**

**CTAE**

**Media Specialist**

**Family**

**Social Media**

## DR. LE LANG

PRINCIPAL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM,  
INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

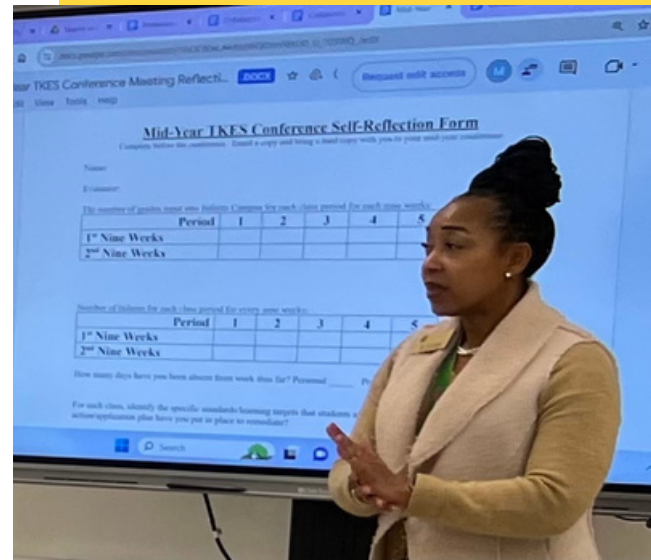
Greetings Knights Community Family,

Our new year and second semester is on to a great start! Elementary school teachers have had an opportunity to dive deep into our new curriculum (HMH Into Reading) for scholars in grades K-5th. We've held professional learning opportunities, which have helped to ensure our teachers are comfortable with implementing something new. I'm excited to share that we are seeing incremental growth among our scholars.

We have (4) intervention teachers who assist us with leveling our scholars up. The work specifically with scholars who have been identified through our MTSS/RTI process that are in need of additional support. Scholars are utilizing Achieve 3000 and IXL to help with literacy and math as needed. The commitment of the dedicated educators in our school district is simply unwavering. We have a celebration coming up in February for scholars' achievements in Achieve 3000 and IXL. We are so grateful for our community partners who support us in this effort. We are especially grateful for Family Connections and Ms. Edwina Turner for our partnership and the work they do to support our scholars.

We are continuously striving to increase Lexile Levels among all scholars. In addition to our new reading curriculum for elementary scholars, our Media Specialist, Ms. Townsend, recently ordered several new books for the Media Center. The best part about this is that scholars had input about what they would like to read. Since the new books arrived, we've seen an increase in scholars going to the media center to check out books.

Parents, guardians, community members and our partners in education, please know that we are grateful for the support we've received from you thus far. Thank you for continuously helping us write a positive narrative about the work taking place in our school district. Your involvement and presence is making a difference. Feel free to schedule a Parent Teacher Conference when needed and attend 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

### STEM Truck at the STEW

On December 12, 2023, the scholars at Stewart County Elementary and Middle School had an opportunity to experience the STEM Truck from South Georgia Technical College (SGTC).

Dr. David Finley and other instructors afforded the scholars of Stewart to participate in the educational lab. Scholars were involved in activities to learn how to virtually paint automobiles, fly drones, and enjoy other technical type learning utilizing virtual technology. Also, the students had the opportunity to actively participate in Robotics. The scholars in grades 3 - 8 were very excited about the activities and became interested in attending SGTC. We are planning to have the STEM Truck to return to campus in the spring for the high school scholars.

Each of the activities are classified as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields with an emphasis on innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking.



## DR. BUSANI

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

Guided by our shared values, each one of us in the maintenance department is fully empowered to consistently exceed the expectations of the Stewart County School district to ensure a safe, and clean learning, and working environment. We strive to provide the most efficient and effective routine and preventative maintenance services needed to support the strategic goals of the Stewart County School System. One of the team members, Francis Vieira, received a certificate in recognition of her hard work and dedication to the Stewart County Schools. The department is working on improving the elementary gym by installing new rails for safety reasons.

On another note, the department is working on adding another parking lot at the back of the elementary gym. That work is scheduled to begin around the beginning of February. Our yearly facilities inspection was conducted by the State Fire Marshal at the end of the year and everything went well. We are 100% compliant. Our focus as a team is to provide the best service for the school system and keep the building and the grounds in good shape and conducive for learning.



## AISHA EVANS

**DIRECTOR OF TESTING AND  
ASSESSMENT**



### **SPRING ASSESSMENT DATES**

**STEWART COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
GEORGIA MILESTONES END OF COURSE  
ASSESSMENTS**

**APRIL 15-19, 2024**

**AMERICAN LITERATURE - APRIL 15 & 16**

**ALGEBRA I - APRIL 17**

**BIOLOGY - APRIL 18**

**US HISTORY - APRIL 19**

**STEWART COUNTY ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS  
(GRADES 3-8)**

**GEORGIA MILESTONES END OF GRADE ASSESSMENTS**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS - APRIL 29 - MAY 1**

**MATHEMATICS - MAY 2**

**SCIENCE - MAY 3**

**SOCIAL STUDIES - MAY 6**

As the first semester comes to an end, Stewart County Schools have made great strides in the area of testing. Reading and Mathematics Growth Measure universal screeners have been administered for the beginning and middle of the year. Acadience early literacy assessments have also been given. Teachers are analyzing the data to measure academic gains and areas to focus instruction. Scholars with gains will receive incentives for their improvement.

We are preparing our scholars for the Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMAS). Grades three through eight have taken the DRC Beacon assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This assessment is designed to address student instructional needs, identify areas of strength and target areas of improvement in each instructional domain, and measure progress throughout the year. The DRC Beacon assessment will be administered again in February to measure progress towards mastery of the standards. At the high school level, our scholars are preparing for the Georgia Milestones End of Course assessment by taking interim benchmark assessments. These assessments have been developed to mirror the GMAS and are given to scholars who will be taking EOCs in the spring.

## PARKER SCHABECK

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Hello! I am excited to join the Stewart County School system as the Technology Director. In the last few years, I have served as a technology specialist and network administrator. In my new role, I look forward to collaborating with fellow educators to integrate technology into the curriculum, ensuring a secure and efficient network, and staying informed about advancements in educational technology. I'm here to support the school community and advance our technology to enhance teaching and learning experiences for the 21st century. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything tech-related, feel free to reach out!



## DARRYL JONES

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR



I'm pleased to announce that we were able to order (2) new buses in November. We like to keep our school bus fleet up and maintain safe transportation for our students. In December, we covered and completed emergency evacuation drills with our students that consisted of the reasons to evacuate, the type of ways to evacuate and instructions when evacuating the school bus. As CDL holders, our bus drivers are required to submit random drug and alcohol testing with a third-party tester. As another layer of safety and being a CDL holder, our bus drivers are also registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). In addition, queries are also run through the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse database. These queries will determine whether drug or alcohol violations exist in the clearinghouse for bus drivers.





## MONA HUBBARD

NUTRITION DIRECTOR

### It's Over!

The nutrition department has been preparing for its 5 year annual review since last year. Well, as of 1/19/24, we are finally finished. We have a few minor tweaks that we must correct, but overall we did great! I am so proud of the nutrition staff for all of their hard work and dedication to get this task completed. We will continue to strive for excellence in providing quality meals for our scholars.



## PATTI MCDONALD

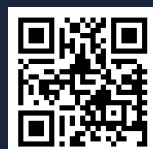
SCHOOL NURSE

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a blessed Christmas. I am looking forward to the New year with your scholars. We will be getting a date for the Middle School Scoliosis screening. Please be looking for the form to sign.

We are still seeing a lot of flu, strep throat, and Covid-19. If you need any home Covid-19 test, please let me know. If your scholar is sick, running a fever or has GI symptoms, please keep them at home and get them evaluated by their doctor. As the weather warms up, I am hoping that some of the sickness numbers will decrease.

Our school has partnered with Help A Child Smile to offer dental care at school. Best of all, in most cases there is no cost to parents if their child is insured with Medicaid/CHIP! Private insurance and affordable self-pay options are also available.

Look for a permission form from school, or sign up online now at [www.MySchoolDentist.com](http://www.MySchoolDentist.com)



## DEMETRIA NORRIS

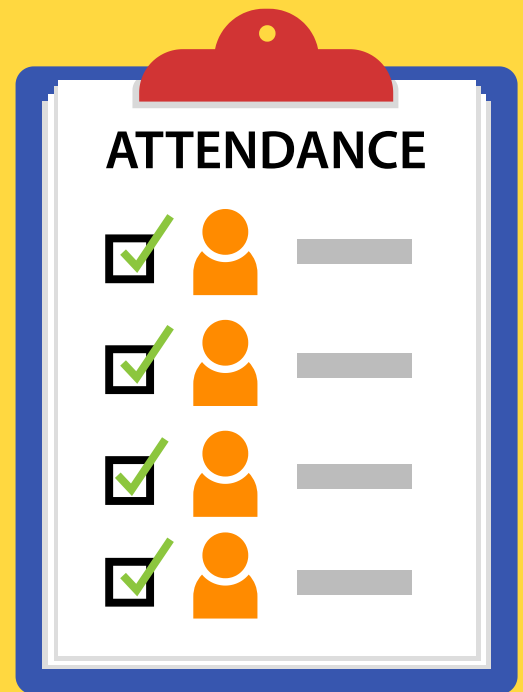
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Dear Parents and Community,

We are asking for your support in improving whole school attendance and punctuality. During the COVID pandemic, scholars and families needed to isolate if they or a close contact tested positive. That is not the case now; we must build back on our previous positive attendance rates. The impact on children's education through learning loss is huge, and at a time when so much education has been disrupted, we must make every school minute count. We urge you to ensure that your scholars are in school and on time daily to prevent anyone from falling behind with their learning. We want to help families get their scholars to school on time. Here are some things you can try:

- Have everything you/your scholar needs for school prepared the night before.
- Ensure that your scholars go to bed reasonably so they are not too tired to get up in the morning.
- Ensure your scholars have a good night's sleep by minimizing their use of devices at bedtime.
- Have a consistent bedtime routine for your scholar.
- Set an alarm to allow plenty of time for your morning routine to get to school on time.

Educationally yours,  
School Social Worker  
Demetria Norris, LMSW



## MARKUS TAYLOR

Federal Programs Director

The mission of Federal Programs is to provide technical assistance, program monitoring, and resources to local educational agencies (LEA) to ensure that all children have an opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and to achieve proficiency in the state's high academic achievement standards.

Title I, Part A funds provide supplemental funding to support educators in improving the academic achievement of students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged.

The Title I, Part A is tasks to provide assistance, resources, and program monitoring to local education agencies (LEAs) in order to ensure all children have a "significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.



## CALVIN THOMAS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

- The 2023-2024 Middle School Basketball Season has ended with the Boys Middle School Team going Undefeated... Congratulations Boys
- Congratulations to Mr. Tae'Quavious Ivory on receiving two college offers, McPherson College and Minnesota North College-Mesabi.
- Congratulations to Mr. Javonte Cannon on receiving a college offer to join the Birmingham Cardinal Family.



## CHERRIKA ASHFORD

SCHOOL COUNSELOR



The Counseling Department works diligently to expose scholars to opportunities that will support their future plans and goals as they navigate getting ready to be college and career ready upon graduation.

Several scholars in the Student Government and Student Council Organization participated in a Leadership Summit at Andrews College where they met peers from neighboring counties, talked with professionals from a variety of industries, and explored leadership skills and values.

Another opportunity was being selected as a Georgia REACH Scholarship recipient. This year we had 5 scholars who were named REACH Scholars who earned \$10,000.00 scholarships to attend a Georgia school upon graduation. They must maintain good academics, good discipline, and good attendance throughout their high school careers as a requirement for the scholarship.

In addition to the above named opportunities the SC Counseling Department has more things lined up in this Spring semester to support scholars in tapping into their full potential for success both inside the classroom and beyond. If you'd like to reach Mrs. Ashford, please don't hesitate to reach out to her at [ashfordc@stewart.k12.ga.us](mailto:ashfordc@stewart.k12.ga.us) or (229) 838-4301 ext 207.





## NICOLE MALLORY

CTAE DIRECTOR

Work-based learning and other senior scholars completed a job training skills workshop series at the Goodwill training center in Columbus, GA. The series included job interview skills, resume writing, and other topics.

JROTC cadets attended the 6th BDE eSports Tournament. The sports tournament consisted of ten (10) University eSports teams within the 6th BDE AO competing against each other for the spot in Army eSports team finals. An Army experience area was set up outside of the venue so that the audience could interact with assets throughout the tournament event. The purpose of this engagement was to facilitate energy between Battalion Army ROTC programs and University eSports teams (on campus and the event for teams selected). It also generated awareness of Army service opportunities with the Army ROTC, the Georgia National Guard, USAREC, and West Point through Army interactions.



## CRYSTAL TOWNSEND

Media Specialist



The school media center plays a crucial role in fostering a love for reading and improving literacy levels among students. It provides access to a diverse range of books, catering to various interests and reading levels. Our scholars recently had the chance to choose books for the media center based on their interests and reading levels. This selection process has heightened the interest in books and has positively increased the number of book checkouts within our school library. Increased book checkouts suggest a rise in reading engagement among scholars which has the potential to positively impact students' Lexile levels.

The 100th day of school marks a significant milestone in the academic calendar. It symbolizes the halfway point and provides an opportunity for reflection on the achievements and growth experienced by scholars and educators. To celebrate this milestone occasion in the media center, scholars participated in a variety of activities all centered around the number "100". The 100th day served as a culmination of the knowledge and experiences gained during the school year. It allowed scholars to see the tangible results of their efforts and encouraged a positive mindset as they tackle the second half of the academic year.

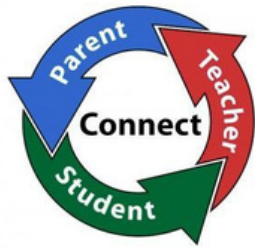




## SHARON JONES

PARENT FACILITATOR

Parent Involvement is starting the new year inviting parents to come to the PTO/Parent KNIGHT Conversations on January 25th and other meetings scheduled over the next 4 months. We encourage parents to be more active by attending the meetings and giving input on important issues. We will end the year with our annual input meeting to update our family engagement policy and school compacts.

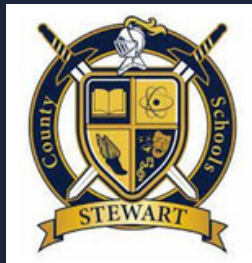


## SOCIAL MEDIA

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