



THE SCOOP@ THE STEW

MAY 2024



DR. MICHAEL ROBINSON

SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Stewart County School District Community,

As we approach the close of another school year, I am filled with a deep sense of pride for the accomplishments of our students, staff, and families. This year has been one of continued dedication and perseverance, and I am confident that these qualities will shine through as we participate in the Spring 2024 Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) assessments.

The GMAS is an important tool that helps us measure student growth and identify areas where we can continuously improve our curriculum and instruction. We are incredibly fortunate to have a team of dedicated educators who have been working diligently to prepare our scholars for success. Their commitment to differentiated instruction, personalized learning, and a supportive learning environment sets the stage for our students to showcase their academic potential.

While the GMAS is currently underway, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our students. They have embraced new challenges, persevered through difficulties, and demonstrated a strong desire to learn and grow. Thank you to the families who have provided unwavering support and encouragement throughout the school year.

We are hopeful that the results of the GMAS will reflect the positive impact of our collective efforts. Regardless of the outcome, we remain committed to continuous improvement and providing our students with the resources and support they need to achieve academic excellence.

In the coming weeks, as the school year draws to a close, we will have many opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our students. I am truly grateful to be a part of this exceptional school community, and I look forward to the continued success of our students in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael H. Robinson,
Superintendent of Schools



A MESSAGE FROM:

Superintendent

Principal

Assistant Principal

Human Resources

Finance

Transportation

Federal Programs

Technology

Transportation

Exceptional Students

Testing/Assessment

Mental Health

School Nurse

Athletics

Counseling

21st Century

A-TEAM/Pre-K

CTAE

Media

Family

DR. LE LANG

PRINCIPAL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM,
INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Greetings Knights Community Family,

We are in the home stretch of completing the school year 2023-2024. Georgia Milestone assessments are well underway for our high school scholars. In addition to the assessments scholars will be taking the next three weeks during our testing window for all three schools, there are several other upcoming events in the month of April and May.

You are invited to attend and participate in Parent Knight Conversations on Thursday, April 25, 2024 in the Elementary School Gym at 5:30 pm. This will also be the third of three Critical Conversations with Superintendent Robinson. We are also having a fun and food filled Literacy Knight! There will be fun family activities and books for our Elementary and Middle School families. Our high school Seniors will also display their Capstone Projects. Please plan to come join the fun. Joe's Food Truck will be here and we are planning to give away 150 Chicken Baskets that will include fries and a drink. We will also have another Achieve 3000 and IXL Celebration at the end of April.

There are several more events coming up in the month of May. Parents will receive a hard copy of the events for the month in addition to being able to access the information on our district website and social media page.

Parents, guardians, community members and partners in education, thank you for your continued support of our scholars at the Stewart County School District.



PAULETTE WHITE

Assistant Principal

On April 8, 2024 the continental United States experienced a visible total eclipse for the 2nd time in over 100 years. Sixty-five to ninety (65% - 90%) percent of the sun will be covered by the moon. This was a historic event. All three schools participated in the event.

Sunglasses were provided by Dr. Robinson for the scholars and staff, so that they may witness history being made. The scholars participated in a safety discussion pertaining to the importance of wearing the special sunglasses. Excitement filled the air as the scholars anxiously awaited the complete solar eclipse. This activity manifested great conversations amongst the scholars which included predicting the actual time of the complete solar eclipse and discussing the phases of the moon.

A special "Eclipse" snack was provided to the scholars in Mrs. Murray's class as the culminating activity.

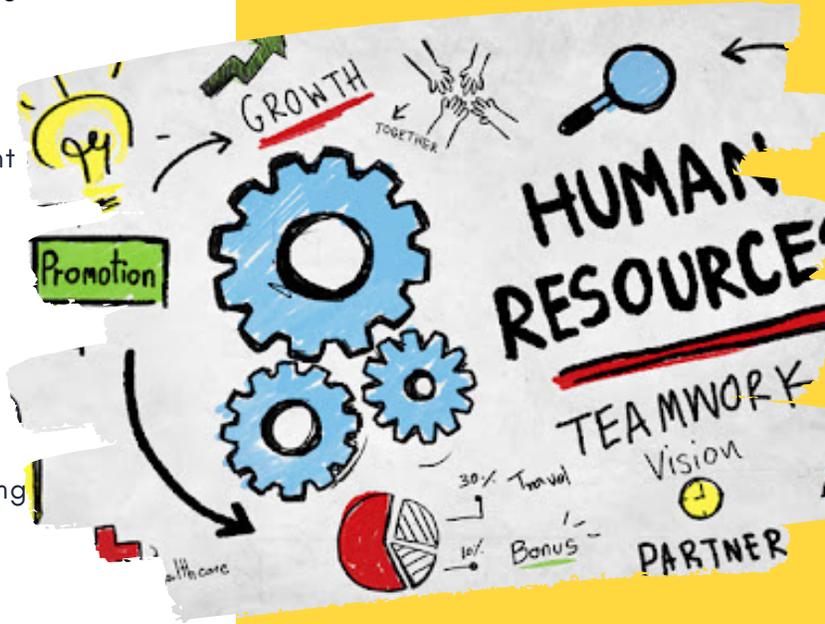


PAMELA GREEN

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

As this school year comes to an end, I am pleased to announce that the implementation of Onboarding with American Fidelity and the new recruiting tool, Frontline, is in complete operation. Implementing these new tools saves time, money, and is convenient for current and future employees.

In other news, Ancentra Health partnered with Georgia Department of Education (DOE) to provide Georgia Public Education Employees free mental health resources, 30-minute legal and financial consultations, and assistance finding services for daily life issues. Employees are eligible to begin using these free services immediately.



JANET WALLS

FINANCE DIRECTOR



In the finance department, we are having budget meetings with all our departments in regards to any needs for the upcoming school year. We will be gathering information over the next 4 weeks to ensure we have an accurate balanced budget. We will be proposing the tentative FY25 budget to the Board in May.

The Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts have begun the financial audit FY23. We are also currently going through a federal monitoring audit as well.

Stewart County Board of Education continues to have a stable financial status. The finance department maintains the accounting services by processing financial information according to local, state, and federal policies, guidelines and regulations. Our purpose is to provide excellent and accurate service and reliable information through financial reporting to ensure we maintain the ability to provide a quality education to all students.



DARYL JONES

TRANSPORTATION
DIRECTOR

In December, we were able to get our Annual Underground Storage Registration Certificate renewed. This certificate is to certify that our facility at our listed location has fully registered its Underground Storage Tank(s) (UST) with the state of Georgia which is with the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

In March, we had our annual school buses inspection done by the Georgia Department of Public Safety (GPS) for defects or anything that would be considered as out of service criteria. They inspected each bus to ensure that it is safe to transport our students daily. Later this spring, our bus drivers and bus monitors plan to cover emergency evacuation drills that consist of; the reasons to evacuate, the type of ways to evacuate, and instructions when evacuating with our students. As the school year is coming closer to the end, our bus drivers and bus monitors plan on finishing the school year strong by maintaining daily safe student transportation to and from school.



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 on the state's high academic achievement standards. Federal funds provide supplemental funding to support educators in improving the academic achievement of students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged.

As part of this process federal programs have to get input from their stakeholders on how to use these funds. See links below for survey input for CLIP and ESSER requirements. Please complete surveys to give your input.

Stewart County School District Parents Survey 2024 - 2025 Federal Programs Needs Assessment

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW9RZ5N>



Stewart County ESSER Feedback Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S2WWBDH>



PARKER SCHABECK

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Our internal network infrastructure has been updated by replacing outdated equipment and network switches as well as all old camera hardware. With these upgrades we will reduce the risk of data breaches and cyber threats, ensuring a higher level of network security.

To ensure a smooth testing experience all student Chromebooks software were updated and applications were tested to make sure everything was in working order.

In order to enhance our cyber security, I wrote a grant proposal for round three of the Safer Georgia Schools Grant from the Georgia Department of Education. If awarded, these funds will be used to address cyber security vulnerabilities and enhance our overall cyber resilience. The grant will also support internal and external penetration testing, asset management and technology ticket support. Final notification of grant awardees will be announced in June.



BAILEE STOVALL-SMITH

DIRECTOR OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS



The Stewart County Department for Exceptional Students takes pride in building capacity within our department by participating in professional development opportunities. Throughout this school year, select teachers from within our department have participated in monthly professional development sessions to build their knowledge and skills for the implementation of a new program that we are using, the SLANT System.

The SLANT System is a research based, Orton-Gillingham multisensory structured literacy method. This program is proven as effective reading instruction for all students, but specifically helps students with language based reading difficulties, or dyslexia. The program is also accredited with the International Dyslexia Association and endorsed by the Center for Effective Reading Instruction. As we continue to use this program, our department is excited to see a continued increase in student performance!



AISHA EVANS

DIRECTOR OF TESTING AND ASSESMENT

Greetings Stewart County Schools Community!

As we march into the blossoming days of spring, it's that time of the year again when we come together to celebrate the growth and achievements of our students, teachers, and staff.

I'm excited to share some updates and insights as your District Testing Coordinator. First and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible educators and students for their dedication and hard work in preparing for the upcoming testing season. Your commitment to excellence is truly commendable, and it sets a shining example for our entire community.

I'm thrilled to announce that the WIDA ACCESS assessments have been successfully completed. These assessments play a vital role in ensuring our English Language Learners receive the support they need to excel academically and linguistically.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the completion of the Georgia Milestones Assessments for our elementary, middle, and high school scholars. These assessments provide valuable insights into our students' academic progress and help us tailor our instruction to meet their individual needs.

Additionally, we look forward to the completion of our universal screeners in Reading and Mathematics in grades K-12. These screeners are essential tools for measuring student growth, gains, and progress towards meeting their academic goals. By analyzing the data from these screeners, we can identify areas of strength and areas where additional support may be needed, ensuring that every student receives the personalized attention they deserve.

To our students: You are capable, resilient, and full of potential. Believe in yourselves, trust in your abilities, and remember that success is not measured by a single test score but by the passion and determination you bring to your learning journey. To our parents and guardians: Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Together, we can empower them to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams. And to our teachers and staff: Your hard work, creativity, and dedication are the driving forces behind our students' success. Your commitment to providing a nurturing and enriching learning environment is truly inspiring.

As we dive into the testing season, let's approach it with a positive mindset and a sense of unity. Let's celebrate the journey of learning, growth, and discovery that we're all part of. Together, we will continue to elevate education in Stewart County and empower our students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

ASSESSMENT DATES



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 (5th & 8th grade only)
- Social Studies - May 6 (8th grade only)

DEMETRIA NORRIS

MENTAL HEALTH

The Impact of Social-emotional learning (SEL) and Attendance on a child's education

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is a methodology that helps students of all ages to better comprehend their emotions, to feel those emotions fully, and demonstrate empathy for others. These learned behaviors are then used to help students make positive, responsible decisions; create frameworks to achieve their goals, and build positive relationships with others. SEL is beneficial to both children and adults, increasing self-awareness, academic achievement, and positive behaviors both in and out of the classroom. From an academic standpoint, students who participated in SEL programs saw an 11 percentile increase in their overall grades and better attendance. On a more individual level, the skills learned within an SEL program have been shown to help students better cope with emotional stress, solve problems, and avoid peer pressure to engage in harmful activities.

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. In this era of increased accountability for states, districts, and schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career.

The combination of social-emotional learning and attending school regularly will have a great impact on a child's learning. As a community, we know that there may be some barriers along the way, but as the school social worker, my number one goal is to help parents obtain all resources available to help their children achieve academic success. I look forward to working with parents and community members to ensure that the goal is reached.



PATTI MCDONALD

SCHOOL NURSE

It's Springtime, flowers are blooming and pollen is high. We have had a lot of scholars with seasonal allergies, runny nose, itchy eyes, congestion, cough, and scratchy throat. This is to be expected this time of year. However, we do not have medication at school to treat these symptoms.

We have had a busy start to spring. In March we had the Mobile Dental Bus on Campus. They will also be coming back in the summer for follow-up care. The Health Department was also here doing Scoliosis Screening on 6th & 8th grades.

I have mailed out letters to parents with Scholars in Pre-K, KK, 5th, 6th and 10th grades about expired immunizations. Parents please look over these and get them taken care of before the new school year. If a scholar does not have the up to date immunization they will not be able to attend school till it is up to date.

As we are getting close to the end of the school year, please keep a check on the Nurse's page on the school website for updated information. You also have access to all forms for medication and the Health information/Over-the counter medication forms. Please remember that we have to have new forms at the beginning of each school year for medication, allergies, health information/over-the counter forms.



CALVIN THOMAS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

- SportVisions 9th Annual High School Female Athletes of the Year Awards Luncheon honoring the top high school female athletes in East Alabama - West Georgia was held on Thursday, April 18, at the St. Luke Ministry Center in Columbus, Ga. Two young ladies represented the Knights; Malayzia Pollard and Quan'Keythia Josey. Good Job, Ladies!
- Spring Sports have ended with Middle and High School Track and Baseball. Great Job Athletes!
- May 16, 2024 will be our Athletic Awards Ceremony to be held in the High School Gym at 1:00 pm
- NEED STEWART COUNTY ATHLETIC GEAR
Stewart County Sideline Store is NOW OPEN
YOU can purchase ANY Stewart County Gear of your of your choice. There are 5 or 6 different brands and the company will ship the items directly to you.

SUPPORT AND PURCHASE YOUR GEAR



CHERRIKA ASHFORD

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

We are in the 4th Quarter of this school year and we are excited about the end of the year festivities. We are working to ensure scholars have what they need to be college and/or career ready as graduation season approaches. Recently we were able to attend the Columbus Technical College Pinning Ceremony for 3 of our scholars who have completed the Certified Nursing Assistance Program via Dual Enrollment. We also have several other scholars who are eligible for the Spring Graduation Ceremony at Columbus Technical College who have completed the Criminal Justice Diploma Program.



TAWNYA HADLEY

21ST CCLC PROGRAM
DIRECTOR



21st CCLC - The A-TEAM

Summer School June 3-June 27

Monday -Thursday 8:00AM- 12:30 PM

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided

Please be patient with Transportation the first few days. Thanks

Sign your child up TODAY!

Field Trips Every FRIDAY!

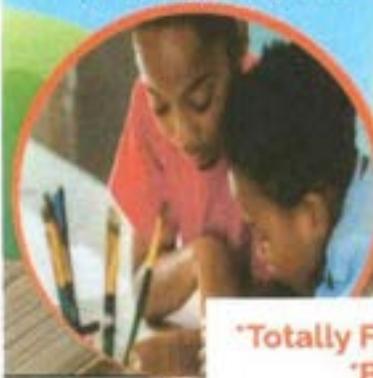


TAWNYA HADLEY

PRE-K DIRECTOR

Stewart County Elementary School
2024-2025 School Year
Pre-K Registration
March 5-25, 2024

Contact Mrs. Hadley for more information at
thadley@stewart.k12.ga.us
or (229) 838-4301



- Required Documents**
- Birth Certificate
 - Proof of Residency (Ex: Water Bill, Tag Receipt, Landline Phone Bill w/ Street Address)
 - Copy of Social Security Card
 - Immunization Record (Form #3231)
 - EEDN Form (Form #3300 - Pediatrician or Health Dept)
 - Copy of Medicaid, Peachcare, or Food Stamp Card (if applicable)

*Totally Free *Bus Transportation Provided
*Breakfast & Lunch included!
*Must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024

NICOLE MALLORY

CTAE DIRECTOR

Many Stewart County CTAE students received Microsoft Office Specialist certifications.

Correy Willis, Shanyiah Wilson, Kendra Floyd, Zyquiera Daniel are all Business and Technology pathway completers and received certifications in PowerPoint 2019.

Fourteen Seniors and Work-based Learning students received Guest Services Certifications through a partnership with Southern River Goodwill.

Seniors and Work-based Learners attended a business tour to the Kia Plant in WestPoint, GA. A presentation was given to provide students with information about the process of making vehicles. They also were informed about the positions, available positions, skills needed and the process of applying for the positions.

Fanisha Maze from College of Agriculture, Family Sciences and Technology from Ft. Valley performed STEM activities with high school students and middle school students.

Middle School students represented Stewart County in Athens, GA at the State Technology Student Association State Competition. Seniors and Healthcare students visited the SimLab at Phoebe Putney in Albany, GA. Students were able to practice various skills on advanced mannequins in the facility that could scream, bleed, vomit, move, etc.

In celebration of Financial Literacy Month, which is April, Mr. Arlington Neely spoke to seniors about being financially stable. He discussed the process of purchasing homes and cars. Students learned many other interesting facts about finances that they will be able to apply to their lives.



CRYSTAL TOWNSEND

Media Specialist



The media center hosted its annual Book Fair in April. Book fairs offer numerous opportunities for scholars to access a wide range of books, encourage literacy, while raising funds for our school media center. Additionally, scholars were afforded the opportunity to receive a book at "no cost" to them thanks to our L4GA grant. The book fair has also created a sense of excitement around books which has the potential to positively impact reading and academic performance.

In addition to being provided with books from the book fair, some scholars and their classes have taken field trips to Parks Memorial Library in Richland and Barnes and Noble in Columbus, Georgia. These literacy field trips have provided students with real-world context for their reading and learning experiences, allowing them to see the vast array of books and different genres. The goal of these community based field trips is to inspire a love for reading by immersing students in environments dedicated to books and learning and fostering a lifelong appreciation for reading.

SHARON JONES

PARENT FACILITATOR

Parent Involvement is wrapping up this school year while preparing for next year. Parents are encouraged to come to the Input Meetings to give suggestions/input into our schools' plans and compacts. We are also excited about our end of the year literacy event. All parents are asked to come and participate in the celebration and learn along with their scholar.

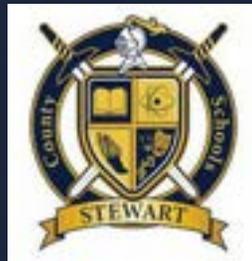


SOCIAL MEDIA

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