STUDENT SERVICES KICK-OFF

SLPS Student Services

The Student Services Staff held their annual "KICK-OFF" on July 26th. The newest members of the student services family were introduced. Dr. Steven Hornyak reviewed the Houston At Risk Profile (HARP) system data to update staff on student achievement in relation to at-risk factors such as behavior data and attendance. Staff from each school team had an opportunity to review the data school by school, student by student and collaborate regarding ways to coordinate targeted student supports and interventions. Ms. Jennifer Jones, the Director of Community and School Affairs provided customer service training for Student Services clerical staff to ensure continued top notch service. The team is ready to take on the school year and see our students grow!



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Each school nutrition lunchroom receives two health inspections during the school year. This past school year, our 38 lunchrooms received a total of 72 health inspections county-wide. Out of 72 reviews, 70 were a perfect score of 100!

The 23 schools listed below have had a decade or more of consecutive perfect health scores! We love that our

managers and employees work so hard to make healthy and safe meals for our students!

> Perry High (10 years) – Jennifer Howard Russell Elementary (10 years) – Jay Weatherford Eagle Springs Elementary (11 years) – Sharon Deas Lindsey Elementary (11 years) – Pat Rice Northside High (11 years) – Morgan Hamel Northside Middle (11 years) – Pat Rice Pearl Stephens Elementary (11 years) – Pam Ross Warner Robins High (11 years) – James Bryant Feagin Mill Middle (12 years) – Rose Reimers Mossy Creek Middle (12 years) – Shella McGahee Veterans High (12 years) – Gloria Jean Williams Parkwood Elementary (14 years) – Mary Land Houston County High (15 years) – Maria Willis Perry Middle (15 years) – Jaynie Perez Shirley Hills Elementary (15 years) – Tricia Nicolosi Huntington Middle (16 years) – Josephine Durham Quail Run Elementary (16 years) – Amy Twigg Lake Joy Elementary (17 years) – Lois Winchester Warner Robins Middle (17 years) – Brandi Smith Miller Elementary (19 years) – Stephen Askew Morningside Elementary (19 years) – Donna Stewart Perdue Primary (19 years) – Brittany Williams Tucker Elementary (19 years) – Brandon Crosby

2022 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR

This summer students with IEPs that qualified for Extended School year received services in a variety of ways. The Elementary site based program was located at Hilltop Elementary School and the Middle/High school site-based program was hosted by Thomson Middle School. This program took place June 6th through June 23rd, 3 days per week. Students in grades Pre-K through twelfth grade received focused instruction targeting IEP goals and objectives. We are so thankful to the paraprofessionals, teachers, speech language pathologists, interpreters, med techs, nurses, bus drivers and school food nutrition personnel that help make this program a success. The excitement and the connections made by everyone helped to facilitate positive learning outcomes for all.



2022 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT RECOVERY

The Student Services Department offered a four-week Credit Recovery opportunity at Northside High School and Perry High School. Students with special needs from all five high schools were given the opportunity to attend. The program was held June 6 through July 1. Students attended in person Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 am - 12 pm, and participated virtually on Fridays. Daily door-to-door transportation was offered for students. Breakfast and lunch were also provided for students each day. The program employed 8 special education teachers and 11 special education paraprofessionals to support students. High school special education teachers, counselors, and program specialists worked collaboratively to identify special education students in grades 9-12 who were credit deficient. This opportunity was available to these students through their Individual Education Plans. A total of 118 students attended the program in person and 6 participated virtually. The program's goal allowed students to take courses to get back on track for graduation; therefore, increasing the Houston County graduation rate for students with disabilities. A total of 308 courses were completed during the four weeks and seven students with disabilities were able to graduate.

Child Find Summer Review

In an effort to support the increasing number of parent referrals for developmental screenings and evaluations in Houston County, the Child Find Team conducted diagnostic assessments, evaluations, and eligibility/placement meetings weekly throughout the summer months. The Child Find Program collaborates with a variety of community partners, which includes Babies Can't Wait, Head Start Programs, and local daycare/preschool programs throughout Houston County to ensure no child is left behind.

Child Find is a continuous collaborative process of public awareness, screenings and evaluations designed to locate and identify all young children with suspected disabilities, and their families who are in need of an Early Intervention Program (Part C) or a Preschool Special Education Program (Part B/619) as governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The Houston County School District Child Find team completed 32 diagnostic assessments, 17 evaluations, and 22 eligibility meetings this summer. Many families expressed gratitude for the efficient and timely process. Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the Child Find Program will serve the families of Houston County and its community partners at two locations: Perry Annex & RW Lindsey Student Support Center. The expansion will continue to provide families a timely and efficient process with less wait time for appointments. The Child Find team also provides itinerant/community based services for preschool aged children at various daycares, preschools, and Head Start programs throughout Houston County.



CPR Training

In January, the school nurses of Houston County School District received training to become certified CPR/AED/First Aid instructors. This certification is valid for two years. An instructor must teach and participate in a training class at least once during this two year period. The nurses of Houston County were able to put their training into action for the first time on May 26th at Veterans High School. The Georgia High School Association requires that all adults working

with student athletes must be trained in CPR, AED, and First Aid. The participants received education in how to recognize signs and symptoms of sudden illnesses like a heat stroke, heart attack, or stroke and how to initiate care. Emergency situations and medications needed to respond to asthma, anaphylaxis, and diabetes were discussed and

demonstrated. Hands-on participation using feedback CPR manikins and AED trainers allowed the coaches to see how to properly use the equipment and perform chest compressions. This first class certified over 40 coaches and must be done every two years. This was a great opportunity to ensure student safety in our school system.











Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education), along with Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare, hosted its annual socio-emotional Summer Camp. Students were selected through their participation with APEX, a school-based mental health program. The camp focused on coping skills, stress management, and goal setting using creative techniques such as making stress balls, tie-dying t-shirts and experimenting with artistic expression. Students enjoyed community integration outings to Rigby's

Entertainment Complex and GoFISH. They also enjoyed a Career Day where local professionals including firefighters, a local nurse, a local master cosmetologist and other professionals came to visit them at the camp.





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Here, We Grow Our Department



Patrick Thomas is excited to start his third year with the Houston County School District as a Program Specialist. He previously served the district as the Itinerant Transition Teacher. This will be his 15th year in education. Prior to education he worked at the Methodist Home for Children and Youth in Macon with children who had a history of sexual abuse. During that time, he decided that he wanted to pursue a career in education and completed the TAPP program to obtain his teacher certification. Before joining the Houston County team, he worked within the special education department of Peach County Schools for 12 years. When he is not working in the school system, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Paige, and 3 children, Preston (12), Piper (10), and Parker (2).

Paula Cooper is a proud graduate of the Houston County School System. She has a Bachelor of Science degree and Masters degree in Special Education from Georgia Southwestern State University. She obtained her Specialist degree in Special Education and her leadership degree from Valdosta State University. Paula is excited to start her 26th year in education as a program specialist for Houston County Schools. Previously, Mrs. Cooper served as a Behavior Specialist for the district. Paula and her husband Sean have two children, Genna a graduate student at Augusta University and Walker a junior at the University of Georgia. Paula is looking forward to continuing to serve the students and teachers of Houston County in her new role as program specialist.





Brandi (Savage) Mauney is honored to be the new Itinerant Teacher for the Transition Academy. She grew up in Warner Robins and graduated from Warner Robins High School in 1994. Brandi went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Special Education, and a Doctorate Degree in Autism & Behavior. She has dedicated the last twenty years to coaching teachers and working with students with disabilities in the Henry County School District. She held various positions which include teacher, coach, behavior interventionist, student support specialist and diagnostician. She has also served as an adjunct professor with Mercer University since 2008 where she has had the privilege of watching her students grow into fabulous teachers and leaders. Brandi has two boys, Sylas & Owen, who will be attending Feagin Mill Middle School as rising 7th & 8th graders. She spends the majority of her personal time cheering for them as they compete in baseball and swimming. Brandi is so excited to be back in her hometown, and looks forward to continuing her career serving the students of Houston County.

Rachada Page is the newest member of Houston County School District's behavior team. In 2007, she began teaching special education at L. H. Williams Elementary School in Bibb County. She taught self-contained MID and interrelated and was recognized as Teacher of the Year for the 2011-2012 school year. In 2014 Rachade received an opportunity to teach in Houston County as a self-contained behavior support teacher. She has taught behavior support at Hilltop Elementary, Langston Road Elementary, and Mossy Creek Middle Schools. She was recognized as Teacher of the Year in 2016-2017 at Langston Road Elementary School and Special Education Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children in 2020 at Mossy Creek Middle School.

Here, We Grow Our Department



Melanie Duncan is excited to start this school year as our new Alternate Access Support Teacher. She is starting year 14 in Special Education. For the last 8 years she has taught in Houston County where her love and passion for teaching has only multiplied.

Alicia Montford is our Family Engagement Liaison at the R.W. Lindsey Student Support Center. She is originally from Miami, Florida, and has lived in Georgia for 17 years. She has always had a love and passion for working with children. Before relocating to Warner Robins, she was employed for 6 years with Miami-Dade County schools. In addition, she owned and operated Genesis Early Learning Academy, a Faith-Based home childcare center. She has a passion to be involved in her children's education, and she inspires other parents to be actively involved as well. She has served in the capacity of Parent Involvement Coordinator for the HCSD for nine years. She thrives on ensuring parents are aware of different resources, services, educational parent tips, and essentials. Mrs. Montford has been married to Anthony for 15 years, and together they have five beautiful children Jaylen, Jamari, Jariah, Jairus and Torian. She enjoys spending time with her children and cultivating their interests and passions. Mrs. Montford has a unique way of building safe and trusted relationships with the parents, making it easy for them to stay involved.





Amanda Coker is the new Lead Counselor for the district. She is a product of the Houston County School System, graduating from Northside High School in 1997. From there she continued her education at Wesleyan College, obtaining a degree in Psychology in 2001. She also received a Masters Degree in School Counseling from West Alabama University in 2007 and a Specialist Degree from Liberty University in 2010. Amanda taught Interrelated Special Education at Warner Robins Middle School prior to moving on to a counseling position at Northside High School. She served as a counselor at NHS for 15 years before accepting the Lead Counselor position.

Karma Bryant is joining our department as the secretary for Project AWARE at the R.W. Lindsey Student Support Center. She is from Warner Robins and a 2004 graduate of Houston County High School. Her husband serves in the military and they have 2 children, Addison and Grayson. In her spare time, she enjoys camping with her family.

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Here, We Grow Our Department



Madeline Campos is joining our team at Lindsey as a Behavior Support Teacher. She is a product of the Houston County School District and a graduate of Veterans High School in 2015. She decided to stay local for college and enrolled at Middle Georgia State University where she received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. Following graduation, she worked as a Registered Behavior Therapist at a local clinic. She decided to change pathways, after having two beautiful children, and became a behavior support paraprofessional at Perry High School. While working at PHS, she was encouraged to pursue her Master's degree in Special Education.

Chantel Fulks is joining our team as the secretary for the Lindsey Student Support Center. She is a originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida but relocated to Georgia in 2003. She is a proud 2004 graduate of Northside High School. She is honored to be serving her community by working collaboratively with students, their families, teachers, and support staff to remove any barriers to student learning. She has been a part of the Houston County School District in various capacities since 2018. She and her husband, Kendrick, have been married for 15 years and have 3 children, La'kendrick, Chyanne, and Maddyson. She enjoys spending time with her family, supporting her children in their various extracurricular activities, traveling, shopping, and spending time at the beach.





Brooks Cumbie is excited to be spending year 27 of her teaching career at the Transition Academy. All of her years in the education field have been with Houston County School District. During her free time, she enjoys running, going to the gym, taking a break at the beach, watching her Georgia Bulldogs play, and spending time with her family. She has one daughter that is married and a son who is attending college.

Kevin Robinson is a graduate of Taylor County High School in Butler, Ga. After earning a Bachelor's in Education from Georgia Southwestern State University, Mr. Robinson returned to Taylor County to teach Health and Physical education. During that time, Mr. Robinson obtained his Master's in Special Education and transitioned to the self-contained setting. He also coached baseball and softball. Mr. Robinson has been employed by the Houston County School District for the last 6 years, teaching in the interrelated and selfcontained settings at Northside High School. Mr. Robinson is excited to be teaching at the Transition Academy. Kevin and his wife, Renee, have three children, Chloe (Graduate of NHS), Tyler (Junior at VHS) and Jonah (2nd grade Matt Arthur).

