

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Welcome March

The Young Georgia Authors (YGA) writing competition aims to inspire students to become passionate and proficient writers. Giving students a platform to showcase their writing skills, and to honor academic and artistic achievement among students. All K-12 students currently enrolled in Georgia public schools are eligible to enter this competition.

Olivia Whitten is the 6th grade winner for Feagin Mill Middle School. Her writing titled "Never Give Up" details more than just a moment in time. She describes the personal struggles and obstacles she had to overcome. Olivia does an excellent job narrating her personal experience, perseverance, and triumph throughout her writing. Olivia's love for learning and "Never Give Up" attitude are contagious. We celebrate Olivia for her continued growth and success. Way to go Olivia!



GEORGIA STATE WINTER GAMES

Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) hosted the 2024 State Indoor Winter Games on January 26th & 27th. SOGA was thrilled to welcome students from the Houston County School District. Houston County High School had 5 teams compete in bowling bringing home 1 Gold Medal, 3 Silver Medals, and 1 Bronze Medal. Huntington Middle School competed in the 3-on-3 tournament and brought home the Silver Medal. Perry Middle School competed in traditional basketball and took home the Gold!

Houston County Special Olympics is excited to announce the Spring Games will be hosted at Perry High School on April 11th & 12th . Students will compete in level A activities, track & field, and volleyball. Opening Ceremonies will start at 10:00AM, so please come out and support these athletes!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Our teacher in the spotlight this month is Jessica LeDoux from Feagin Mill Middle School. Ms. LeDoux knew she wanted to be a teacher in high school. She was diagnosed with Epilepsy and ended up receiving hospital homebound services due to her condition. It was during this time in her life, she realized teaching is what she wanted to do. Ms. LeDoux received a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from the University of North Florida. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Georgia Southern University. Ms. LeDoux loves the challenge of teaching, learning new ways of doing things, and seeing her students become better everyday!

One way Ms. LeDoux prepares her class for life after high school is the SMART cart. SMART stands for Students Making Advances in Real Time. Ms. LeDoux stated, "the students make, sell, and deliver different food items to staff throughout the building. Students learn customer service skills, food safety skills, and how to work with others." When students are not working the SMART cart, they can be found researching jobs, filling out applications, and practicing interview skills through mock interviews. She loves teaching and couldn't imagine doing anything else. Thank you Ms. LeDoux for the impact you make on the lives of your students!



HOUSTON CARES

February 9-11, 2024

302

Adults &
Children Served



Services:

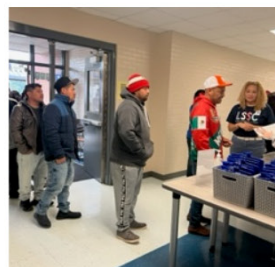
Vision - Hearing - Health - Vaccinations
Medicaid - Peach Care - Mental Health

Successes:

- ✓ 90 Vision Referrals
- ✓ 52 Immunizations
- ✓ 12 WIC Applications Completed
- ✓ 26 Vision & Hearing Screenings for Enrollment

Schools Represented:

BES - BMS - BPS - CBWP - CES - DPES
HCHS - HMS - KCES - LJES - LRES - MAES
MCMS - NES - NHS - NMS - PHS - PMS
PSES - PWES - QRES - SHES - TES - TMS
WES - WRHS - WRMS

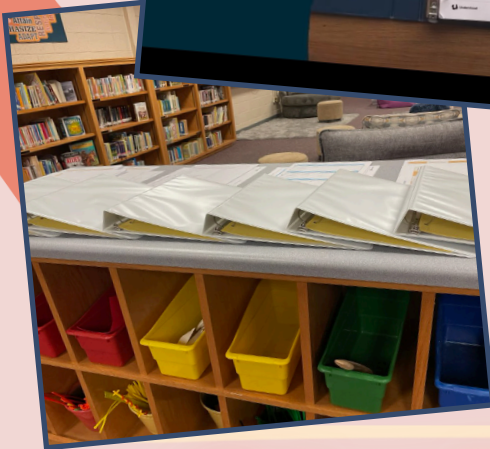


Feedback:

"We are very satisfied with the quality and excellent attention given to us by all the staff who were at the event"
"Thanks for the support. We were able to learn what is necessary for our health"

HAPPENINGS @LSSC

Start with this checklist.



The District's Parent Mentor held a Make and Take workshop on February 22nd for parents and guardians to create IEP binders. Organizing a binder with their child's IEP, evaluation reports, and other important paperwork will help them be better prepared for meetings. The binder helps them stay up to date on their child's progress and most importantly helps the family become a valuable, engaged part of the IEP team.

Sharks Champions

The Houston County Varsity Sharks received their 2022-2023 State Championship rings at their home basketball game on February 3rd. The Varsity Sharks were State Champions for all 3 sports: Handball, Basketball, and Football. Overall, they have won 12 State Championship titles in Handball, 11 State Championship titles in Basketball, and 10 State Championship titles in Football. Way to go Sharks!!



FUN FOODSHOW

The Houston County School Nutrition program hosted a statewide food show on February 28th. This year's show set a new attendance record with 357, including an impressive 200 students, representing 33 diverse districts from across the state. More than 100 participants were proud Houston County students! The show's primary goal was to empower districts with a variety of menu options, sparking creativity, and ensuring students have exciting nutritious meal choices. The secondary objective was to gather valuable survey information, providing insight into the preferences and tastes of students, to guide menu planning for the upcoming school year. With the assistance of the Houston County Technology Department, a new digital survey was used, allowing students to provide real-time feedback on the different offerings of food samples. And you should know...they took this job very seriously! Students felt empowered, felt their opinion mattered, and their voices were heard. They left knowing their input had a direct impact on the meals served at their schools. Additionally, it was an amazing opportunity for students to gain first hand experience with food related careers: sales, product development, distribution, marketing, and culinary arts. The Houston County School Nutrition Food Show was more than just a culinary showcase; it was an opportunity for creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to providing the best possible meals for our students.



TRANSITION ACADEMY



Work Based Learning experiences represent the pinnacle of a career-related educational experience, and the month of February was packed full of opportunities for our students at the Transition Academy. From our local community partners like Moose Lodge, Rigby's, LSSC, and Gold Cup Bowling to new places like Buccee's and Ocmulgee Mounds National Park, our students continue to grow their work readiness skills through this hands-on learning approach. Partners from the Career Academy organized a nail salon social hour and a Valentine's Dance to add some fun for the month of February. Students at the Transition Academy enjoyed every opportunity, and we are so thankful for each of these partnerships.



Graphic Guys



Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) is a specific set of service components funded by Vocational Rehabilitation to provide students work related training opportunities. The Transition Academy has partnered with Waves Autism Center to provide PreETS services to a select group of students. Waves organized a community outing tour of Graphic Guys, a local business who specializes in screen printing, embroidery, and promotional products. The purpose of doing community outings is to take skills from the classroom into real-life settings to strengthen the skill, expand upon the skill, and/or promote generalization. Thank you Waves Autism Center & Graphic Guys for this amazing opportunity!



Social Workers

“School Social Workers are instrumental in promoting all students’ social, emotional, and academic success. They provide key services that address barriers to learning, facilitate positive relationships between students, families and school staff, and advocate for equitable access to resources and opportunities. Their dedication and expertise contribute significantly to creating safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environments where every student can thrive.” -Dr. Jacqueline Brown-Pinkney, 2023-2024 School Social Workers Association of Georgia President.



Please join us March 3-9, 2024 in celebrating our school Social Workers. Houston County appreciates their Social Workers, who are pictured above!