



THE SCOOP@ THE STEW

ISSUE 2 • APRIL 2023



DR. MICHAEL ROBINSON

SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Royal Knights Community:

It seems like just yesterday that we were preparing for the new school year and all of the opportunities that arrived with a fresh beginning. We are turning our energy to the second semester, which includes reinforcing our scholars' cognitive skills required for success on the Georgia Milestones Assessments System. As you can imagine, creating a sustainable culture of excellence requires lots of hard work and dedication. Please continue to assist us in this endeavor by ensuring your child is invested in their learning experience at school and home. A regulated place and time for studying have proven to be an element in every scholar's route to success. If additional support is desired, encourage your child to take advantage of outstanding educator's tutorial sessions after school.

Our teachers and staff are some of the hardest working professionals I know, but we also know we can't do it without your support. There is no substitute for the passion and commitment you give daily to your children and our school to make it a great place to learn and grow.

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to increasing our momentum for a successful school year!

Yours in education,

Michael H. Robinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



A MESSAGE FROM:

Superintendent

Principal

High School AP

Elementary AP

Finance

Human Resources

Federal Programs

Technology

Transportation

Special Education

Testing/Assessment

Nutrition

Athletics

Afterschool/21st Century

Pre-K

Counseling

CTAE

Media

Family

Social

DR. LE LANG

PRINCIPAL/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Dear Knights Community Family:

We are more than half way through the school year 2022-2023 and Spring Break is right around the corner! Everyone is encouraged to take time to rest, relax and come back recharged because our teachers and scholars have been working diligently to close achievement gaps and get prepared for the Georgia Milestones assessments.

We successfully kicked off our Parent Teacher Organization in January and new officers have been elected. Be sure to check out our new PTO link on the District website for more information. According to research, "Students whose parents stay involved in school have better attendance and behavior, get better grades, demonstrate better social skills and adapt better to school." Parent involvement is truly a game changer for scholars.

I'm asking you to not only encourage your scholars to read and read with them, but also help them learn the new vocabulary words they are exposed to on a weekly basis. The more words they know and understand, the better they will comprehend what they read.

We are very excited to share that our JROTC Program recently earned accreditation for the next five years! Congratulations to our JROTC leaders, Colonel Jackson and First Sergeant Jester for leading and helping to mold and shape our JROTC Scholars.

Spring sports are well underway. Check out our District website for schedules of baseball games and track. Please continue to come out and support our scholar athletes.

I'm looking forward to more of our team effort to provide a quality education for all students and to become one of the highest performing districts in the state of Georgia. Together everyone achieves more!

Sincerely,

Dr. Le Lang
Principal



PAULETTE WHITE

Assistant Principal High School



What a day! What a day! The scholars of SC had an amazing time during STEM/STEAM DAY at the Stewart County Schools. Scholars from Pre-Kindergarten to eighth grade enjoyed the activities of the day. STEM/STEAM activities afforded our scholars opportunities to produce products and make predictions. Awws and oh my goodness came from creating catapults, chromatography flowers, coding bracelets, slime and predicting results of blow up balloons, erupting spheres, marshmallow towers, and film canister rockets. Also, the scholars' imaginations were stretched using pattern blocks and magnatiles. A special thanks to the Exploratory Staff and selected Juniors and Seniors for assisting with the activities. The results of the teamwork of Stewart County Staff and students along with Mrs. Goodin and the RESA team and the gratitude of the scholars were taken back to the classes on their faces and in their product bags. Our scholars are looking forward to the next STEM/STEAM DAY.

DR. BUSANI

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ELEM/
FACILITIES /MAINTENANCE
DIRECTOR

It became evident several years ago that to fulfill the mission of keeping our facilities clean we needed to purchase better and modernized cleaning equipment. The district agreed to purchase new cleaning machines that are technologically advanced. These machines make it easier for our custodians to clean and buff the floors. It was also decided that we needed a better and modernized security system. We are in the process of upgrading the security system. Some work has been done and the department is working towards completing this task soon. More is yet to come. Stay tuned.



JANET WALLS

FINANCE DIRECTOR



Budget season is upon us! We are now working hard on the FY24 school year budget. Watch the local newspaper and the School Website for the tentative budget to be posted in mid to late April.

PAMELA GREEN

PAYROLL/ HUMAN
RESOURCE DIRECTOR



The Human Resources Department is pleased to announce a new added feature called Frontline. Frontline is a free paperless recruiting and hiring application offered by the Department of Education (DOE). Frontline makes it easy to navigate even the most complex hiring processes. Frontline is designed to assist with finding the most qualified candidate by targeting specific qualifications. The link to access the application will be listed on the district's website and social media sites.



MARKUS TAYLOR

Federal Programs Director



ESSER

**Elementary and Secondary
School Emergency Relief**

ESSER Funds

What does ESSER stand for? In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government passed three relief packages that include unprecedented support for K-12 schools. This support is called ESSER, which is an acronym for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. The Stewart County School District will be conducting input meetings to get feedback on how districts should use their ESSER funds and how interventions will improve the Stewart County Schools. Please complete ESSER Survey with the link below.

ESSER Feedback Survey

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

CHRIS USREY

TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

Hello from the Technology Department! As spring approaches we are gearing up for our end of year push and getting ready for our Summer projects. As stated in the last newsletter we were hoping for news on getting our Rural Technology Grant. We were notified by the Georgia Department of Education that we did get the grant and this is really exciting news for Stewart County. As outlined before, this grant will allow us to purchase seven new 75 inch interactive panels for upgrading the High School Hall. We will also be able to purchase fifty teacher laptops to upgrade our aging fleet and 25 desktop computers to replace the oldest ones, currently in the elementary lab. We will now be able to use our older 75 inch panels from the High School around the school in different areas such as the gyms, meeting rooms, media center and anywhere we might need the added displays for teaching or presenting for guests. Also in the works is an upgrade to our existing internet circuit provided by the Department of Education called Peachnet. Our current internet circuit is 300 Megabits per second. With the update coming, it will top out at 1200 Megabits per second. This update should allow the district to be able to meet the demands of the high bandwidth requirements from our online resources for years to come.



DARRYL JONES

TRANSPORTATION
DIRECTOR



This March, our school buses will be inspected by the Georgia Department of Public Safety for any defects or issues that would be considered as "out of service" criteria. They will be inspecting each bus to ensure that it is safe to transport scholars daily. As a safety practice, our bus drivers and bus monitors will be performing emergency evacuation drills this spring that consist of; the reasons to evacuate, the type of ways to evacuate, and instructions when evacuating with our scholars.

As the school year comes to an end, our bus drivers and bus monitors will continue to provide the services and care that each scholar is privileged to have.

DR. STACIE HOWARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR

Stewart County School System celebrated 2023 Exceptional Children's Week March 6-10, 2023. During this special time, we had the opportunity to honor and celebrate the exceptional scholars of SCS and the amazing staff who support them. Each day we highlighted a staff member as well as provided information regarding the "Power in Our Differences".

The 2023 Parent Survey, available in English and Spanish is now open to all families of students with disabilities in the state. The Parent Satisfaction Survey helps the Georgia Department of Education (GA DOE) understand parents' perception of their engagement between the local school and themselves. Parents of students with disabilities are encouraged to complete the survey online at <https://survey.gadoe.org/SPEDParentSurvey>. The survey will remain open through May 31, 2023.

Power in Our Differences



AISHA EVANS

DIRECTOR OF TESTING
AND ASSESMENT



End of Grade: Elementary & Middle
English/Language Arts - Grades 3-8: May 1-2
Math - Grades 3-8: May 3
Science - Grades 5 and 8: May 4
Social Studies - Grade 8: May 5

End of Course: High School
American Literature: April 17-18
Algebra 1: April 19
Biology: April 20
United States History: April 21

Parents and scholars are encouraged to use the links provided for extra practice on the Georgia Milestones.

Study and Practice Guides for Georgia Milestones EOG & EOC
https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Milestones_Resources.aspx

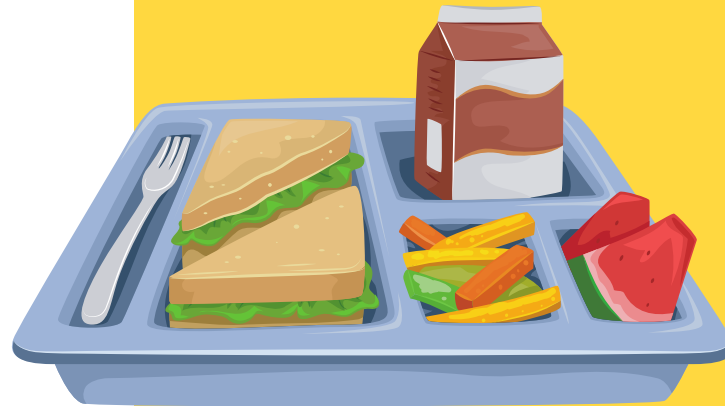
Practice Test Experience: <http://www.gaexperienceonline.com>



MONA HUBBARD

NUTRITION DIRECTOR

Three More Years! The Stewart County Educational Complex Nutrition Department has completed their 3-year review, and has passed. This means that we can provide supper to our scholars for three more years. This is very exciting and it was the first review since the program started 3 years ago. This is a great help to all involved. I believe the scholars look forward to having their last meal at school before going home for the day. I would like to congratulate all of the staff who were involved in this process of preparing and serving the meals.



PATTI MCDONALD

SCHOOL NURSE



Spring is in the air! March 20th was the official day of Spring. The pollen is high, seasonal allergies and flowers and trees are blooming. Please start your daily seasonal allergy medication if needed. If you haven't completed and returned the School Health information and over-the-counter medication authorization form for this school year please do so.

As the school year comes to close, the nurse's office is now going to have a Nurse's corner on the school website. Please check it out for updates that you will need. I will also have all school health office forms available on this site for you, as well as informative educational information. Please take advantage of the forms online and complete them before the new school year. This is very important for us to have to be able to give your scholar any over-the-counter medication. These forms have to be done each school year. Be sure to make sure your scholar is up-to-date on all vaccines before the new school year. Scholars in grades: Pre-K, Kindergarten, 7th grade, and 11th grade need updated vaccine form 3231 and hearing, vision, dental form 3300.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

CALVIN THOMAS

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Trenton Hodges for being selected for the 2nd Team All-Region and to Jordan Jones for Honorable Mention for Class A Division II Region 1 All-Region Basketball.

Spring Sports have begun with Middle School and Varsity Baseball along with Middle and Varsity Track.

Shout out to Our Very Own Royal Knight, Trenton Hodges, for new offers from Columbus State University and Central Georgia Technical College.

Congratulations to Our Very Own Royal Lady Knight, Miss Chavondria Crimes on being projected by Mile Split GA at #1 in Class 1A Division 2 in track.



CHERRIKA ASHFORD

SCHOOL COUNSELOR



We celebrated "I Love My Future Week" during CTAE Month in February.

We invited several colleges and speakers to our campus to address our scholars about post-secondary options to include colleges, military, and work force. The organizations ranged from technical colleges, traditional four-year colleges, and public and private universities. We also had lawyers, nurses, and business owners to share their paths to becoming successful in their fields. The key focuses were goal setting, and work ethics.

The Counseling Department is working diligently with the scholars and parents to improve our scholars' attendance. We have implemented the #AttendanceChallenge in which scholars are awarded certificates and treats for having perfect attendance for the month. The scholars have to attend school every day, and be on time to earn the reward. We are also having attendance meetings, doing home visits, and conferencing with the scholars and parents that have excessive absences. We know that our scholars achieve more when they are present at school daily and engaged in their learning.

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

read well by the end of third grade

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

pass important courses

HIGH SCHOOLERS

stay on track for graduation

COLLEGE STUDENTS

earn their degrees

WORKERS

succeed in their jobs

TAWNYA HADLEY

21ST CCLC PROGRAM
DIRECTOR

Another school year is quickly coming to an end. We can all agree that this school year has gone by very fast. I'm sure you're amazed at how your scholar has blossomed as the year has passed. Below are some A-Team updates:

- **Register** your scholar for the A-TEAM Summer Program **Today.** See an A-TEAM Team member to do so.
- Field Trip -March 31 st , early release (additional details forthcoming)
- The last day of A-TEAM for the school year is May 11, 2023
- Summer school will be held June 1-June 29, Monday - Thursday 8:00-12:30, breakfast and lunch will be served



TAWNYA HADLEY

PRE-K DIRECTOR



Another school year is quickly coming to an end. We can all agree that this school year has gone by very fast. I'm sure you're amazed at how your scholar has blossomed as the year has passed. Below are some Pre-K updates:

Pre-K field trips:

- April 14 2023 -Chehaw Park, Albany, Georgia
- April 28 2023- Mark's Melon Patch, Dawson, Georgia
- May 12 2023-Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm, Plains, Georgia

Assessments:

- April 24-28 PALS Testing
- May 1-5 PPVT Testing
- May 8-12-EOY/Parent Teacher Conferences sign up with your scholar's teacher
- Activities:
- Contact Mrs. Hadley to register your scholar for Pre-K
- May 4, 2023- An Enchanted Evening Mother/son Daddy/daughter (additional details forthcoming) One parent per scholar

NICOLE MALLORY

CTAE DIRECTOR

CTAE Business Pathway and Work Based Learning scholars attended an extended learning career development training opportunity at the Goodwill Training Center in Columbus, GA. Students participated in the Financial Literacy Workshop. The workshop provides students with real world situations in which they can apply this knowledge. This partnership between the CTAE department and Goodwill has been very valuable to our scholars as it prepares them to be able to manage finances. Mr. A. Neely was the presenter for the workshop. Ms. Denise Eckley is the Career Center Manager for Goodwill in Columbus, GA.

The students also visited the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta, GA. Students learned about the history of currency and how it has evolved over time. They also learned about monetary policy and the Federal Reserve's role in the economy.



CRYSTAL TOWNSEND

Media Specialist



Read Across America (RAW) is the nation's largest celebration of reading. We celebrated RAW, the week of February 27-March 3 with a week full of daily dress up challenges such as; camouflage/hiding behind a good book, reading can take you places; with shirts from our favorite places, and crazy about reading by wearing crazy or mix matched socks. The main focus behind RAW is to promote reading through events and resources that promote diversity and inclusion.

Books! Books! and more Books! The scholastic Book Fair was back in action the week of March 20-24. Book Fairs empower scholars to choose their own books and express their own voice. Scholars participated in a sneak peek on Friday, March 17 and were ready to shop bright and early on Monday, March 24. Our goal of 250 books sold was exceeded. We received profits in order to buy more books and resources to enhance our media center

Speaking of more books for our library, we received a donation of over 200 new books from United Way! Many of the books donated included diverse and multicultural titles. Some of the titles such as: "Hair Love", "The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story", and "Islandborn" contain characters of color that represent a minority point of view. Diverse books allow children to feel seen and to know that their stories are valued. It also allows for those stories to be told to children who might have not been aware of those stories in the first place.

SHARON JONES

PARENT FACILITATOR

Parent Engagement has extended the reach to parents with the establishment of the PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization). The officers are excited and working on fundraisers for the schools. Parent Engagement is also preparing for the Spring Input Meeting in April for the next school year.

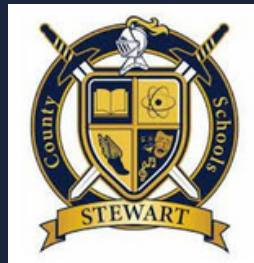


SOCIAL MEDIA

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