



# Student Services Board Report

## Congratulations, Dawn Mabry of PSES!!!



Dawn Mabry, Teacher of the Year at Pearl Stephens Elementary School has been awarded a \$3,000 STEAM grant for her innovative “STEMade Lemonade” project.

The initiative is designed as an inclusive, hands-on learning experience where students with intellectual disabilities collaborate with their general education peers to plan, design, and operate a lemonade stand. Through the project, students will strengthen skills in math, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork while applying classroom concepts to a real-world setting.

By promoting equity, inclusion, and meaningful engagement, the STEMade Lemonade project reflects the school’s commitment to connecting learning with authentic experiences and preparing all students for success beyond the classroom.



# Happy National School Nurse Day!



Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to recognize school nurses. It was established to foster a better understanding of the role of school nurses in the educational setting. School nurses are front-line healthcare providers, serving as the bridge between the healthcare and education systems. They act as public health sentinels for both schools and their communities.

For many children living in or near poverty, the school nurse may be the only healthcare professional they access regularly. School nurses are essential in infectious disease surveillance, as well as in the identification and intervention of student physical and mental health concerns, health screenings, school-located vaccinations, and immunization compliance efforts.

With over 40% of school-aged children affected by chronic or mental health conditions, school nurses play a vital role in improving attendance, reducing health disparities, and supporting student success.

On May 6, we thank all of the school nurses for their hard work and dedication to the students and schools of Houston County. They work constantly to keep Houston County schools safe.

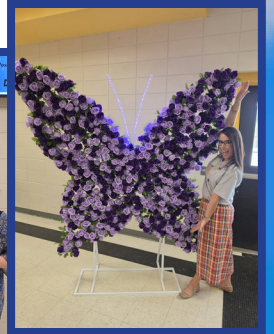


# The Butterfly Project



On April 24 and 25, students participating in the Butterfly Project took the stage for their first theatrical performance.

The cast delivered an energetic rendition of High School Musical Jr., earning enthusiastic applause from the audience. The production marked a proud milestone for the group, showcasing their hard work, creativity, and growing confidence on stage.



Flint Energies provided a \$2,000 grant in support of The Butterfly Project! The funding will help expand resources and enhance the project's impact within the community. Thank you, Flint Energies, for your contribution. Partnerships like this play a vital role in bringing inclusive programs to life.

# SCHOOL NUTRITION PROM



Once again, the School Nutrition Prom, hosted by our local School Nutrition Association, was a highlight of the year! It brought our team together for an evening of fun, laughter, and connection, with great participation and even a few friendly dance-offs. Beyond the celebration, the event gave us a chance to recognize the hard work and dedication of our school nutrition team. Opportunities like this strengthen relationships, boost morale, and reinforce the sense of community that drives our program's success. We look forward to continuing this special tradition for years to come!



# ***CEC Awards Ceremony: Ellen Maltais Chapter***

The Ellen Maltais Chapter for Exceptional Children is committed to supporting the educational success of individuals with disabilities. On April 16, the organization held its annual CEC Awards Ceremony to celebrate the dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments of students, educators, and community members throughout Houston County.

Among the honorees, we were proud to recognize Susan Campbell with the Legacy of Service Award and Monica Smith as a Friend of CEC. We celebrate both women for their unwavering dedication to supporting exceptional students and wish them all the best in retirement.



# Lindsey Student Support Center News

Great news! The LSSC community shower and laundry facility is almost complete. This much-needed resource will soon be available to support families in our community who need access to these essential services. Families can connect with their school counselor or social worker to learn more, as services will be available by referral. We're proud to offer this new space as a meaningful resource that promotes dignity, care, and support for those we serve. This facility will be a valuable asset to our community, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it will make.



The LSSC proudly celebrates Denise Boyd for 35 years of dedicated service to the Houston County School District. Her professionalism, hard work, and positive presence have made a lasting impact on our schools, staff, and students. The LSSC and HCSD are grateful for her commitment and proud to recognize this remarkable milestone. Congratulations, Denise, and thank you for your outstanding service!



Throughout April, aspiring chefs sharpened their skills while learning the importance of healthy eating with guidance from Emory Healthcare. Students gained hands-on experience with essential knife techniques and cooking skills as they prepared flavorful, nutritious meals. Best of all, they can take these recipes home to share with their families—turning what they learned in the classroom into meaningful moments and lasting memories in the kitchen.



A huge thank you to the MidSouth Community FCU volunteers for their incredible work in our community garden on April 22! These dedicated volunteers rolled up their sleeves and transformed the space by pulling weeds, cleaning beds, planting new greenery, and organizing the garden to help it thrive. Their hard work and teamwork have created a welcoming, beautiful, and productive space for everyone to enjoy. We are so grateful for their time, energy, and commitment to supporting our community.





# Growing Skills: Transition Academy Plants Seeds for Success



The Transition Academy has had a productive month, with continued success in its Casseroles and Transition Treasures programs. These initiatives provide students with hands-on opportunities to build vocational, life, and social skills in real-world settings.



A highlight came on April 17, when Ashley Denton from Perry High School's Agriculture Department helped launch the Academy's first student-led vegetable garden. Students planted tomatoes, zucchini, and squash while learning essential gardening skills like soil preparation and plant care.



We are grateful for Dr. Denton's support, including coordinating soil donations from local farmers. This new garden expands experiential learning and gives students meaningful opportunities to build independence, responsibility, and pride in their work.





# Building Skills and Confidence at the CASE Conference

On April 22, the Transition Academy was invited to participate in the CASE Conference in Atlanta, showcasing the meaningful work of our program while connecting with educators and professionals from across the state.

Students and staff presented food items from Casserole Creations and handcrafted products from Transition Treasures, highlighting their creativity and real-world skills such as teamwork, food preparation, and customer interaction.

Students engaged with attendees by sharing their experiences and explaining their work, building confidence and communication skills. We are proud of how they represented the program with professionalism and enthusiasm.



# HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS

On Tuesday, April 28,  
Dr. Rogers and his team took on  
the Sharks in our annual Sharks vs. Guppies  
fundraiser game. Several district and community  
leaders came out to participate in a competitive  
wheelchair football game.

This year, the event broke records:

The Guppies scored more points than ever before; however, the Sharks  
still came out on top.

Attendance was higher than any other year, with nearly 200 tickets sold  
at the door.

The event featured performances by the Butterflies, Impact, Popping  
Pandas (DPPS), Paws Squad (TES), and a rendition of the national  
anthem by the RES Chorus.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event and  
helped make it a success—especially those at Perry  
High School!

