

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

hello
NOVEMBER

Let us be grateful for the people who make us smile, the moments that warm our hearts, and the memories that last forever.



Social skills are the skills we use everyday to interact and communicate with others. Students at the Transition Academy took a well deserved break from their usual tasks to learn how to communicate effectively and build more productive relationships with colleagues. One way our students practice social skills and team building is through activities such as a whole group, music BINGO game. This was a perfect way to celebrate the end of October!



STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Houston County School Nutrition program received one of only two awards given at the Georgia School Nutrition Directors Conference held in Athens, Georgia on October 18, 2023. The Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition department presented the Standards of Excellence award recognizing Houston County for exceeding program requirements in the area of employee training. Emily Miller, GADOE Area Consultant, stated "Every Houston County School Nutrition employee has the opportunity to increase their knowledge in all aspects of school nutrition. Employees are equipped for success via training and hands-on learning experiences. This professional development program has contributed to staff retention and a decrease in staff turnover." Meredith Potter, Director of Houston County School Nutrition, accepted the award on behalf of the program.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Our teacher spotlight this month is on Jeremy Downing from C.B. Watson Primary School. Mr. Downing is from Oklahoma but moved to Warner Robins in 1997. He has attended Macon State College, Valdosta State College, and Grand Canyon University. He has a degree in Psychology and Special Education. He will be starting his Educational Leadership degree in the Spring at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Downing has been teaching for 17 years. He taught at Hilltop Elementary and Pearl Stephens Elementary before joining the team at C.B. Watson Primary in 2014. Mr. Downing stated “I am at the best school, a true gem in the county. I love this school and the environment the staff has created.” He says he loves to help guide his students by creating a sense of belonging and letting them know they can do great things. Mr. Downing shared that the best thing about his school and job is his students!

In his free time, Mr. Downing spends time with his family while traveling across the country for wrestling events for his kids. He is the Varsity Football Coach for Houston County Sharks and the Head Wrestling Coach for Houston County High School. His passion is to prepare his athletes with a mindset that will navigate them through life and help them achieve great things! Mr. Downing loves going to work every day to teach his students. He says, “my favorite thing about teaching is getting to see my students grow, mature, and begin to use skills that I have taught them.” Thank you Mr. Downing for loving your students and making such a positive impact on their lives.





We might be biased...but this year's fair promotion was the best one yet! Breakfast was a huge hit with our students featuring new items like strawberry shortcake donuts, breakfast tacos, and a banana pudding yogurt parfait! Favorites such as the giant cinnamon roll and turkey leg were served as well, along with new lunch items like the meat lover's stromboli, fried pickles, and bacon ranch bird dogs. Cafeterias across the county were transformed into carnivals with games and extravagant décor! It is always a joy to see students in all grades get excited about community events and school meals!



Special Olympics



Fall Games for Special Olympics were hosted at the Transition Academy on October 19th. Middle school students from across the district participated in games like Bocce, Soccer, Softball and Skills competitions. Excitement and competition soared through the crowd. The top 4 finishers in each event received an award. The Transition Academy students and staff were amazing hosts and contributors to the success of the event. Students in Mr. Robinson's, Mrs. Cumbie's, and Mrs. Larsen's classes ran the concession stand. They were able to use this opportunity to teach work-based learning concepts that included counting money, serving customers, stocking products, and practicing proper sanitation methods. Partners from Warner Robins High School helped with event set up and clean up, as well as face-painting. WRHS student, Tarikk Taylor, sang the National Anthem beautifully while the ROTC presented colors during opening ceremonies. As always, these events take a lot of time and preparation. The support of our Board of Education, administrators, schools, and volunteers help to ensure these games are a success. We are thankful for all the schools and organizations in Houston County who teamed up to provide this opportunity for our Special Olympics athletes!



Our Special Olympics team partnered with Rigby's and Civitan to provide 200 elementary students a Fall Festival Day on October 17th and 18th. Students were able to participate in bowling, Putt-Putt, laser tag, and arcade games. Students had a blast at the dance party that ended the great day! Rigby's graciously provided lunch for all of our students. A big thank you to Rigby's and Civitan for their generous support of our Special Olympics program!

LSSC

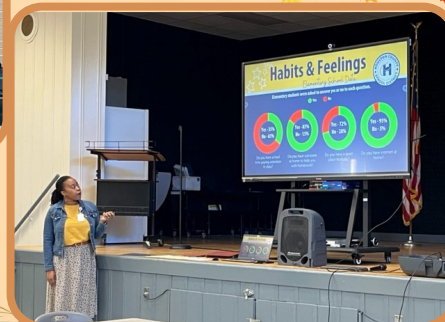
"Bloom where you are planted"

Members of the Gibb's Life Group Class from Central Baptist Church volunteered at the Lindsey Student Support Center to beautify the campus and provide valuable resources to the center. Volunteers laid fresh pine straw donated by Houston Hardware, built metal shelving for the resource room, shelved books in the library, washed/folded clothes, assembled food bags, and restocked the food pantry. All items were donated by Central Baptist Church. We are so thankful for their service and support to our students and families!



LSSC

"Bloom where you are planted"



The Lindsey Student Support Center was proud to host the Georgia Department of Education's Promising Practices Tour on October 16th. As one of just four stops across the state, the center saw over 50 Student Support and Family Engagement Professionals from Middle Georgia. Morning and afternoon sessions alternated between professional development seminars and tours of the Lindsey Facility. Ms. Bonnie Brown and Ms. Tangela Brice served as tour guides fielding questions regarding the mission of the Lindsey Student Support Center, outreach, programming, and funding. One Family Engagement Coordinator from Peach County stated, "This facility and program is just incredible! I'm so excited to share all that you're doing with my district!" Ms. Brown, on behalf of the Lindsey Center Team, accepted a certificate of appreciation presented by Shaun Owen, Deputy Superintendent, from the Georgia Department of Education and The Family-School Partnership Program.

LSSC



The Lindsey Student Support Center held the 2nd annual Taco-Bout Technology event on October 17th! Parents of Houston County students were given access to our on-site computer lab and Technical Support Professionals to assist them with technology barriers and questions. The primary goal was to have parents complete the digital handbook. Volunteers provided additional support on Infinite Campus, navigating Google Classroom, and other applications were also provided. Lindsey Support Staff members turned chefs for the evening and made tacos for more than 40 – feeding five families as well as students from the ESL class. We also had HCSD staff members Sarah Levieux (Data Analyst) and Jessica Perez (ESOL Parent/Student Liaison) to provide technical support and translation services. It was a successful team effort!

