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PRESS RELEASE

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Gifted & Talented Education Teachers Honored by Shah Family



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Fifty-six teachers of gifted and talented students from across the Houston County School District were recently honored as recipients of the Houston County Education Assistance Fund on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Manoj Shah. Each teacher was presented with a classroom grant between \$400 and \$500, as well as a certificate in recognition of their enthusiasm, devotion and effectiveness in gifted, honors and advanced placement programs.

After their children graduated from Warner Robins High School, Dr. and Mrs. Shah began the Houston County Education Assistance Fund because they were pleased with the education their children received while enrolled in Houston County. The family created the fund to support teachers who nurture and encourage innovation, creativity and student passion. The award began with Warner Robins High School and over time was extended to all five high schools. In 2017, the Shah family expanded their gift to include Houston County's eight middle schools, and in 2022, Dr. Shah increased his donation to include one gifted teacher from each elementary and primary school in the county.

The honorees from the high school level are listed below:

- ★ Houston County High: Lyndsay Cumpston, Leah Daughtry and Harrison Ivins
- ★ Northside High: Tristian Barronton, Jamie Reiter and Joi Wright
- ★ Perry High: Tiffany Frank, Lindsey Gentry and Courtney Herbert
- ★ Veterans High: Matt Boone, Kristi Cannon and Lesley Murkerson
- ★ Warner Robins High: Susan Custer, Louis Leskosky and Kara Waite

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The honorees from the middle school level are listed below:

- ★ Bonaire Middle: Jalanda Goff and Marla Hutchens
- ★ Feagin Mill Middle: Julie Ash and Kaitlin Rainey
- ★ Huntington Middle: Kelly Harris and Timothy Olson
- ★ Mossy Creek Middle: Jennifer Ham and Heather Schmanski
- ★ Northside Middle: Alicia Boarts and Leslie Clark
- ★ Perry Middle: Jessica Hayes and Tim Hutchens
- ★ Thomson Middle: Nicole Leary and Pamela Postell
- ★ Warner Robins Middle: Kevin Mitchell and Mary Winters

The honorees from the elementary school level are listed below:

- ★ Bonaire Elementary: Michelle Koehle
- ★ Bonaire Primary: Michelle Sargent
- ★ C.B. Watson Primary: Erin Flanders
- ★ Centerville Elementary: Tiffany Coder
- ★ David Perdue Elementary: Amy Stone
- ★ David Perdue Primary: Hollie Aaron
- ★ Eagle Springs Elementary: Rebecca Leonard
- ★ Hilltop Elementary: Katelin Geiger
- ★ Kings Chapel Elementary: Kelli Barnes
- ★ Lake Joy Elementary: Ashleigh Edwards
- ★ Lake Joy Primary: Sabrina Hall
- ★ Langston Road Elementary: Alicia Graham
- ★ Langston Road Primary: Melanie Shellong
- ★ Matt Arthur Elementary: Peaches Tankersley
- ★ Matt Arthur Primary: Kristen Erickson
- ★ Miller Elementary: Rheanna West
- ★ Morningside Elementary: Courtney Curles
- ★ Northside Elementary: Stacy Brown
- ★ Parkwood Elementary: Sara McMahon
- ★ Pearl Stephens Elementary: Alexis Alexander
- ★ Quail Run Elementary: Kim Pellegrino
- ★ Russell Elementary: Amanda Hunnell
- ★ Shirley Hills Elementary: Crystal Walker
- ★ Tucker Elementary: Holly Owen
- ★ Westside Elementary: Michelle Feldmeier

The gifted and talented education program in Houston County offers motivated students unique opportunities to further their education. From the sciences to humanities, dedicated teachers have been paramount in the success of these advanced classes. For more information on the Gifted and Talented Education program, please visit www.hcbe.net/giftedandtalented.

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Pictured left to right: Olethia Thomas, Dr. Manoj Shah, and Dr. Mark Scott

In recognition of his continued support of gifted education in Houston County, Dr. Manoj Shah accepted a plaque presented by Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools, and Ms. Olethia Thomas, Director of Gifted Education and Coordinator of Fine Arts and Advanced Placement.