

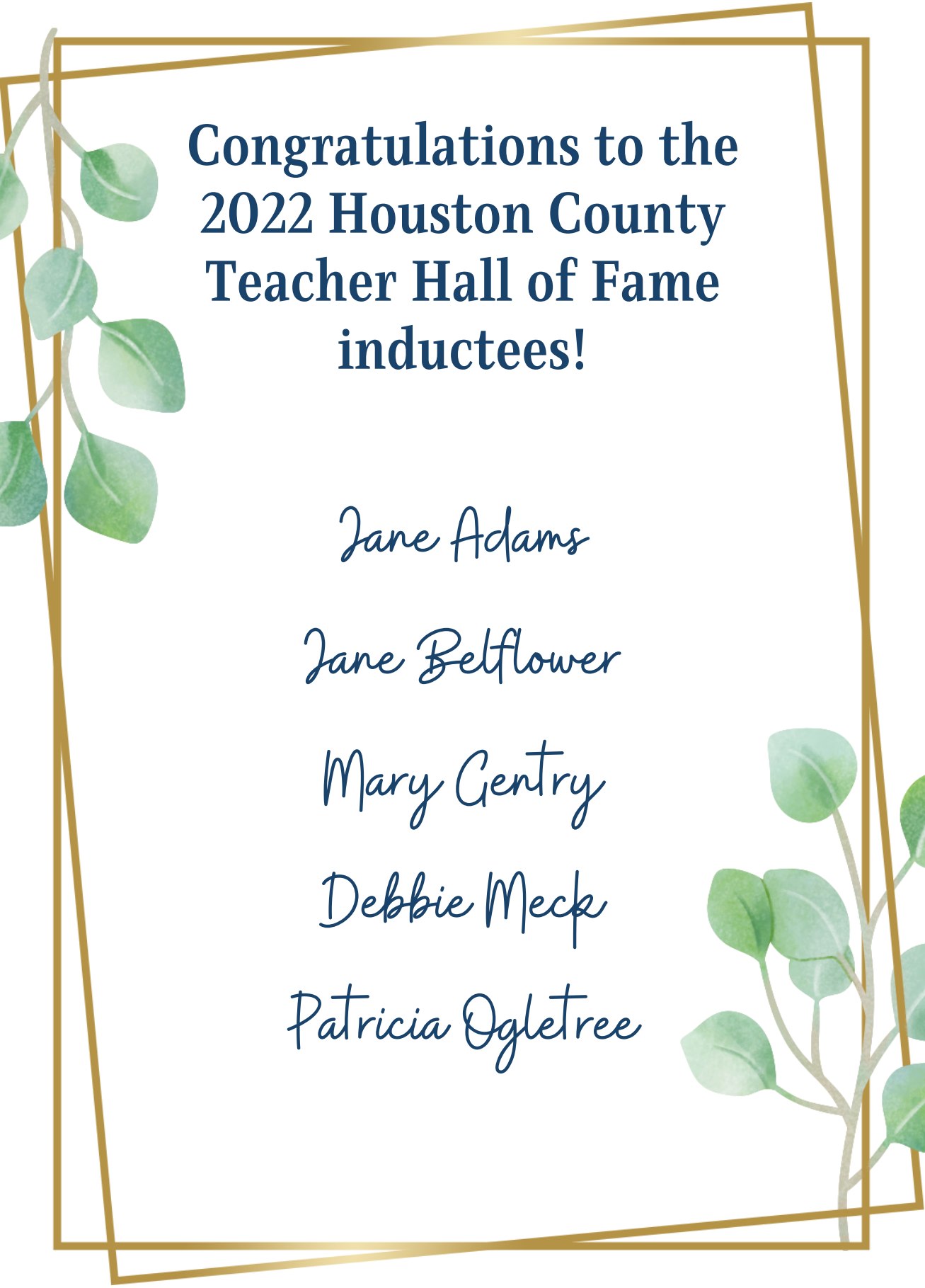
Houston County



2022 Induction Ceremony

November 3, 2022

Houston County School District
Board Room
Perry, Georgia



**Congratulations to the
2022 Houston County
Teacher Hall of Fame
inductees!**

Jane Adams

Jane Belflower

Mary Gentry

Debbie Meck

Patricia Ogletree





Order of Events

Welcome

Dr. Mark Scott
Superintendent of Schools

National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance
Choral Ensemble, Warner Robins High School

Introduction of Guests

Dr. Scott

Special Remarks

Mr. Dave Crockett
District 3 Representative
Houston County Board of Education

Recognition of Honorees

Dr. Scott

Jennifer Jones
Director of Community & School Affairs

*Refreshments will be served in the foyer
immediately following the ceremony.
Please join us to celebrate the contributions
of these extraordinary teachers.*

*"The influence of teachers extends beyond the
classroom, well into the future."*

~F. Sionil Jose





Jane Adams

Mrs. Jane Adams was born in Macon, Georgia. She graduated from A.L. Miller Senior High School. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1980 from Fort Valley State University. She later received a Master in Mathematics Education from Georgia Southwestern State University.

She began her teaching career at Northside High School in 1980 where she taught math. She also served as a Georgia In-Tech Trainer for the District from 2004–2005. Mrs. Adams retired from the Houston County School District in 2008 after teaching for 28 years. During her tenure at Northside, she

took on many leadership roles. She served on the Project Success Team, identifying student strengths and weaknesses to best meet educational needs of at-risk students. She also served as an advisor to numerous clubs and managed a peer tutoring program. Mrs. Adams also received the Walmart Teacher of the Year and Radio Shack Tandy Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

Mrs. Adams and her husband, Grady, have been married for 52 years and live in Byron. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have one son and two grandchildren.



Jane Adams is held in such high regard by numerous alumni because of her kindness and genuine love for all students. She was an outstanding math teacher who led us through the journey with a deep enthusiasm to apply math to every day life. She understood that each person learned differently, and she knew how to draw out the best in each of us. She also dedicated countless hours to support students outside of the classroom through clubs, sports teams, and other extracurricular activities. Mrs. Adams was devoted to developing students academically and personally so they could be successful in life beyond Northside High.

Colonel George Nichols



One of the first things I noticed about Jane Adams was her love for all students. She supported athletic, academic, and artistic pursuits of her students by generously giving her extra hours outside the classroom to attend their events. This devotion led to deep, meaningful, and long-lasting relationships with many students. She also supported her colleagues in the same manner. As an administrator, she became a sounding board for me. I valued her opinions and knew that she always had the students' best interest at heart in any decision we had to make. She was the first to take a family a meal or collect items for those in need. She did all of this without accolades or recognition.

Sonya Peterman





Jane Belflower

Mrs. Jane Belflower was born in Macon, Georgia. She graduated from Mount de Sales Academy. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education in 1981 from Georgia College and State University. She later received a Master in Early Childhood Education from Mercer University and a Specialist in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern State University.

She began her teaching career at Danville Elementary in Twiggs County. In 1983, she transferred to Houston County to become a first grade and compensatory education teacher at Miller Elementary. She also taught at Kings Chapel Elementary, Matt Arthur Elementary, and Shirley Hills Elementary. Mrs. Belflower retired from the Houston County School District in June 2014 after 31 years in the classroom. During her tenure, she received several awards including Make a Difference Day National Award from Oprah Winfrey, My Teacher is Tops, and the Literacy Month Recognition from Governor Brian Kemp. She also was named Teacher of the Year on two separate occasions.

Mrs. Belflower and her husband, Billy, have been married for 42 years and live in Warner Robins. Mr. and Mrs. Belflower have three children and four grandchildren. She continues to volunteer her time in classrooms and at Central Baptist Church.



What I remember most about Jane Belflower's class was the quality of her lessons and the compassion she had for her students. She ensured that everyone was able to learn by not only providing a rich, intellectually stimulating environment, but also by connecting directly with us every day. Whether it was by reading aloud from her collection of books, giving us advice and resources for writing, or taking us outside to do a new science experiment, she never missed an opportunity to guide learning. She pushed us to broaden our horizons and nurtured our passions. She was always confident in our ability to succeed.

Luke Foster



When I think of Jane Belflower, I think about professionalism, dedication, and commitment. As her Assistant Principal at Matt Arthur Elementary, I witnessed her make a significant difference in the lives of many students. She loved all students unconditionally, nurtured them, and challenged everyone to never stop learning. She had a great rapport with her students, colleagues, and administrators. She is also a dynamic leader who remains dedicated to the education profession. She continues to strive for excellence in all areas through her impeccable work ethic. She has mentored both novice and veteran teachers with her innate ability to motivate and inspire others.

Dr. Cynthia Hammond





Mary Gentry

Mrs. Mary Gentry was born in Vienna, Georgia. She graduated from Unadilla High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1981 at Tift College. She later received a Master in Education from Georgia Southwestern State University.

She began her teaching career at Northside Middle School in 1981 where she taught math. In 1987, she moved to Perry High School where she taught math and chorus. Mrs. Gentry retired from the Houston County School District in June 2018 after

teaching for 37 years. During her tenure, she taught every math course from lower level seventh grade to AP Calculus. She also piloted the Applied Math Courses taught during the 1990's. As a result, she became a facilitator for the Applied Math training courses offered around the state. Since retiring from Houston County, she began teaching math at The Westfield School in Perry.

Mrs. Gentry and her husband, Greg, have been married for 32 years and live on their farm in Hawkinsville. Mr. and Mrs. Gentry have two sons and two grandchildren. She loves playing the organ and singing in the choir at First Baptist of Perry.



Mary Gentry is the epitome of what an excellent educator looks like, talks like, but more noticeably - walks like. Over the course of my life, she loved, held, and guided me through struggles inside and outside of the classroom. She mentored me in high school and college so I could develop a love and understanding of mathematics.

Many of the math teachers at Perry High were taught by her so that goes to show how much her work has meant to every one of us who have answered the call to become educators. It is our highest honor to teach in the halls hallowed by her great influence so the next generation can love math as well.

Jamie Stewart



To watch Mary Gentry in the classroom is to witness something that can almost be defined as sacred. When the cap comes off the marker, she tells a story with numbers that no one can quite repeat the same way. She has been a pillar to the halls of Perry High - teaching the beginning learners the foundations of algebra to coaching the top of the class through calculus. Students who sat in her classroom and now sit elsewhere, all still sing her praises. She is a legend that other educators aspire to be. She groomed many teachers during her 37 years and supplied each of us with the opportunities to gain experience and leadership. When I survey any success of my career, it is directly tied to her name.

Tiffany Frank





Debbie Meck

Mrs. Debbie Meck was born in Manhattan, New York. She graduated from Maconaquah High School in Indiana. She received a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education in 1980 from Wesleyan College. She later received a Master in Early Childhood Education from Fort Valley State University and a Specialist from Troy State University.

Mrs. Meck began her teaching career at Centerville Elementary School in 1980 where she taught multiple grade levels throughout her 31 years as a Mustang. She retired from the Houston County School District in June 2011. During her

tenure, she served on the school-based Staff Development Committee, implementing programs on writing, cooperative learning, story-telling, whole language, assertive discipline, and motivational techniques for at-risk students. She also served as a peer teacher for several first-year teachers and was selected to participate in the first Teacher Support Specialist Program, serving as a mentor for student teachers. She was named a Georgia Teacher of the Year finalist in 1993.

Mrs. Meck and her husband, Donald, have been married for 53 years and live in Bonaire. Mr. and Mrs. Meck have three sons and eight grandchildren. She enjoys hunting and golfing with her husband.



Debbie Meck was the epitome of the type of person every parent prays their child will have as a teacher. She created a sense of family and comfort inside of her classroom.

Students were challenged academically while feeling safe to take risks to grow as a learner. She was not only an outstanding educator to elementary aged children, but also to her peers at Centerville Elementary and across the District. She mentored many young teachers, and they were very eager to model what they learned from Mrs. Meck inside of their own classrooms. She paved the way for many educators in the county.

Meredith Rhodes



Debbie Meck knew how to create an atmosphere in which students and teachers felt that together, we could accomplish great things. I remember watching her magically connect with students that many could not reach. She knew that the secret to helping children grow was to provide opportunities for them to fall in love with learning. She also served as a role model for all teachers and believed everyone played a valuable role. She wanted each of her co-workers to be successful and make school engaging, because she knew it would benefit all students. Mrs. Meck was and continues to be an inspiration to many educators.

Tonya Maddox





Patricia Ogletree

Mrs. Patricia Ogletree was born in Orlando, Florida. She graduated from Warner Robins High School. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1982 from the University of Georgia. She later received a Master in Education from Mercer University.

Mrs. Ogletree began her teaching career at Northside High School in 1984 where she taught all grade levels throughout her 38 years as an Eagle. She retired from the Houston County School District in 2019 and continued to teach part-time until

2022. During her time in the District, she received several honors including STAR Teacher multiple times, Northside High School Teacher of the Year, and Tandy Technology Scholar. She also received the National Hewlett-Packard Graphic Calculator Grant. At Northside, she was the Math Club sponsor for many years and partnered with Parkwood Elementary School to mentor at-risk students through an after-school program.

Mrs. Ogletree and her husband, Jeffrey, have been married for 40 years and live in Fort Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Ogletree have one son. She loves to read, watch movies, and vacation with her sisters.

“ Patricia Ogletree possesses something unique that elite educators must have - the special balance of subject mastery with an uncanny ability to care for and connect with students from all backgrounds. She gave the same time, attention, and patience to all students, from those needing help with the most basic concepts of addition and subtraction to the most complicated Calculus concepts that are the foundation of the technology which permeates our lives today. I knew I wanted to become an engineer in high school, but little did I know that what I learned over 20 years ago in her classroom would still be serving me today. I am forever indebted for her care and instruction.

Dr. Anthony Hylick

“ Patricia Ogletree is not only one of the best math teachers I have observed, but one of the all-around best educators I had the pleasure of meeting. Among her math cohort, she was highly respected and revered for her teaching ability, strong leadership skills, steadfast work ethic and caring attitude for all. She had a keen ability to understand when a student or staff member needed a little support or mentorship. As an administrator, I would often find notes of encouragement on my desk from her at just the right moment. She made my job as a principal much easier, but she also helped make me a better administrator.

Dr. Jody Dean

Members



2019

- Dr. Elzie Argene Claxton
- Mrs. Rebecca T. Crockett
- Mrs. Sandra H. Gilreath
- Mrs. Pamela A. Knauer
- Mrs. Margaret M. Washburn

2016

- Mrs. Debbie Dean
- Mrs. Brenda Littlefield
- Mr. Eli Claude (E.C.) Warnock
- Mr. Elijah Weatherspoon

2015

- Mrs. Barbara T. Asbell
- Mrs. Gloria M. Combs
- Mrs. Dorothy C. Hardy
- Mrs. Sheila W. Keener
- Mrs. Cerelia W. Sipe

2013

- Mrs. Linda Faraone
- Mrs. Mary Ann Gore
- Mrs. Gail R. Maye
- Mrs. Pamela R. Stanescu

2012

- Mrs. Inez Daughtry Brewton
- Mrs. Donna Crawford Havrilla
- Mrs. Sherin C. Hinnant
- Mrs. Joyce Bridges Jones
- Mrs. Jeanne Connell McDonald
- Mrs. Carolyn K. Stonehouse

2011

- Mrs. Joyce Brooks
- Mrs. Mary Alice Holland
- Mr. Ray Horne
- Mrs. Annabelle Watts Katekis Lytle
- Mrs. Billie Goode Mosteller
- Mrs. Bertie Riner

2009

- Mr. Phillip Brewton
- Mrs. Jean Brown Lambert
- Mrs. Gloria Mason Ragin
- Mrs. Evelyn Dowdy Ross
- Mr. Leon Tompkins
- Mrs. Martha Gonzalez Valdes


2008

- Mrs. Eva Nelson Holland
- Mrs. Dorothy Naomi Jones
- Mr. W. Earl Marshall, III
- Mrs. Mildred Bynum Montgomery
- Mrs. Alberta H. Moody
- Mrs. Gervaise Wynn Perdue
- Mrs. Thelma Eleanor Ross
- Mrs. Carolyn Coleman Smith
- Mrs. Pearl J. Stephens
- Mrs. Mabel Ellis Weaver

2007

- Mrs. Gladwyn Sproull Barfield
- Mrs. Ruby Pickens Carpenter
- Mr. Earl H. Cheek
- Mrs. Claire Tyson Coleman
- Mrs. Mamie Horne Coleman
- Mrs. Blanche Youngblood Collins
- Miss Sara Frances Couey
- Mrs. Florence Smith Harrison
- Miss Sara Lewis
- Mrs. Molly Cason Moss
- Mr. Adleigh Douglas Redmond
- Mrs. Susie Mae Tharpe
- Mrs. Malissa Giles Tucker

Teacher Hall of Fame Criteria



The purpose of the Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame is to honor extraordinary classroom teachers who taught in Houston County, Georgia and made a significant difference in the lives of their students. This recognition program began in 2007 to honor the District's most outstanding teachers.

Nominees must have maintained exemplary standards of behavior and ethics, exhibited leadership, been enthusiastic about teaching and learning, demonstrated competency in their subject matter, worked well with colleagues and administrators, and consistently sought to encourage, inspire, and motivate students toward greater accomplishment. While many teachers serve a long and distinguished career, accomplishments must be worthy of Districtwide recognition. Longevity without meaningful impact does not constitute appropriate credentials for Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame consideration.

Nomination requirements:

- At least 20 years of classroom experience in the Houston County School District
- Must be retired from the field of education
- Must have held a valid teaching certificate in Georgia
- Must have earned a bachelor's degree or higher
- After the nomination has been verified for the eligibility requirements above, the nominee will be contacted by the District to submit an application that must include:
 - Education, teaching experience, and special recognition
 - Nominee's personal, professional statements
 - Letters of support or recommendation

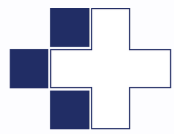
Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools, appoints the Selection Committee, which reviews all nominations. Nominees not chosen the first year may be considered for up to three years. The application is modeled after the National Teachers Hall of Fame located in Emporia, Kansas, to make it easier to also nominate a teacher at the national level.

Special thanks to those who submitted nominations
and letters of support for today's inductees.

Premier Sponsors



Many thanks to our sponsors who support all Districtwide events, to include the Houston County Teacher Hall of Fame.



HOUSTON HEALTHCARE



totem



YANCEY
Bus Sales & Service

In-Kind Sponsors



Thank you to our Teacher Hall of Fame in-kind sponsors who made this event possible.



**CHEROKEE
BRICK**
Est. 1877

**Classic
Award & Trophy**

