

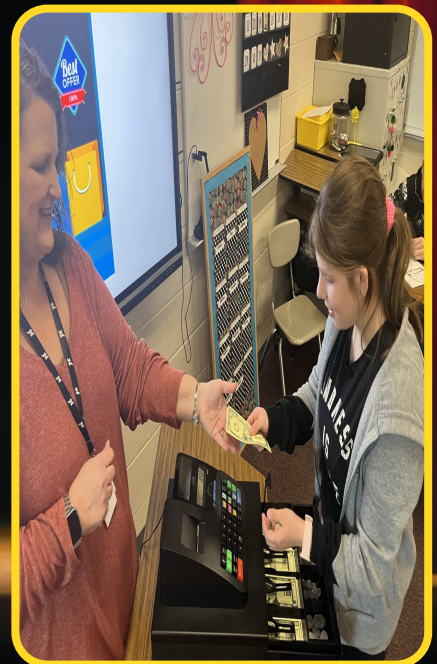
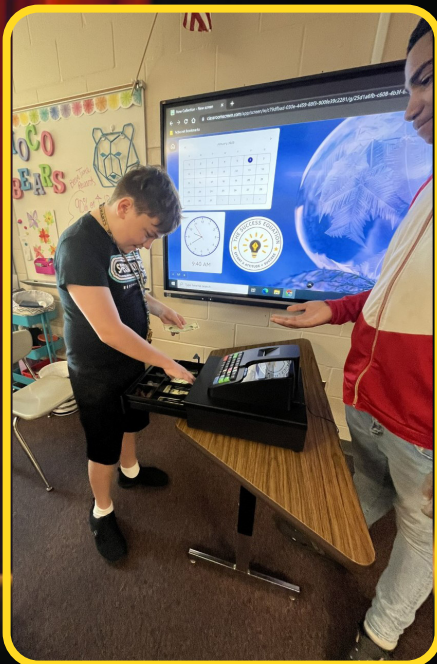
STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Lauren Koff, School Nutrition Dietitian, has become an integral part of the Houston County School Nutrition program over the last ten years. Whether it is hosting local food shows, training others, serving students with dietary concerns, or helping to bring Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to over half of the schools in the district, Lauren is invested in all parts of the Houston County School Nutrition Program. She has excelled in grant writing and received over 2 million dollars in funding to assist with increasing access to meals for our students. Additionally, she is the president of the local School Nutrition Association and has attended lobbying conferences on behalf of school nutrition staff and students in Washington DC. Lauren received the National Silver Spirit FAME Award this month in San Diego, California. This award is one of the Foodservice Achievements Management Excellence (FAME) awards that is given out annually to deserving school nutrition professionals. We are so proud of Lauren, and the contributions she has made to better our students and community!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

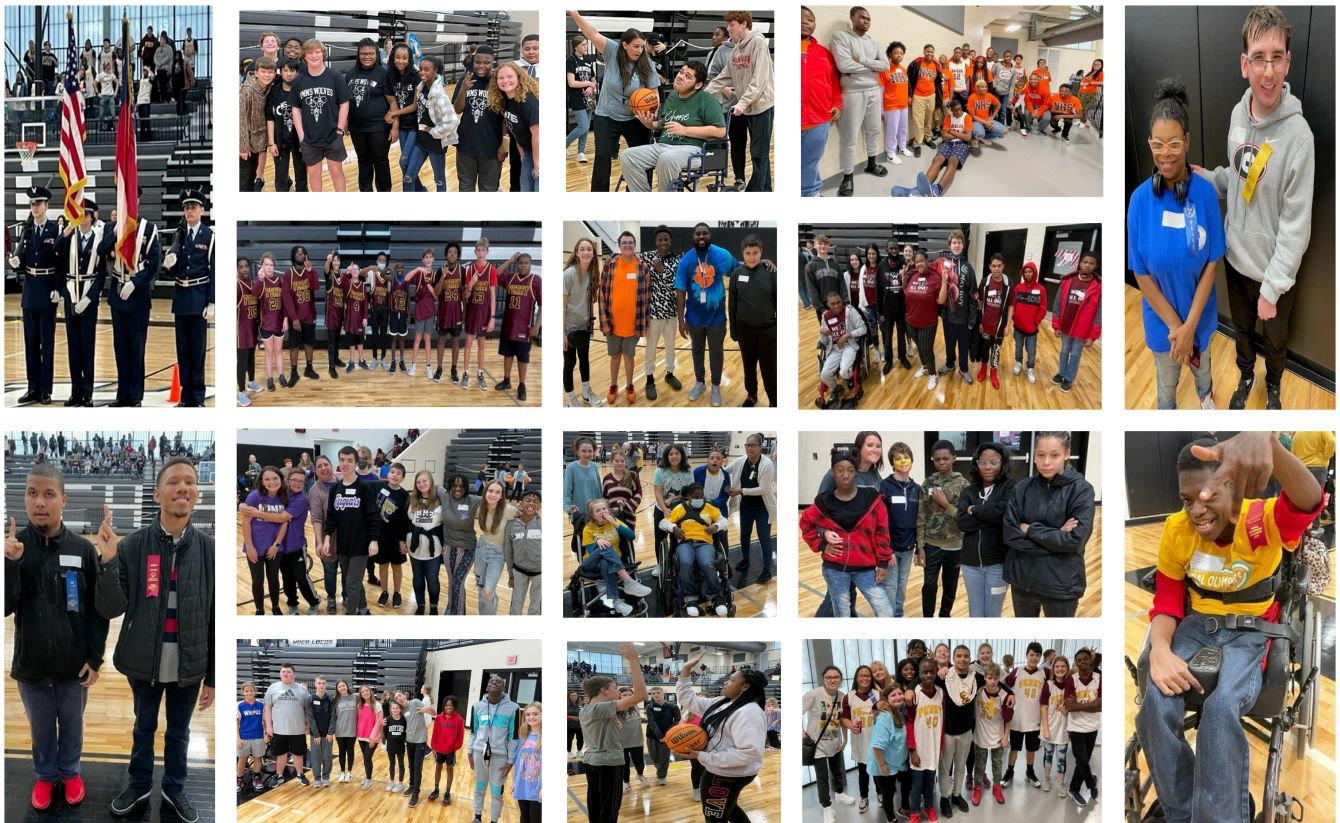
Our teacher in the spotlight this month is Nina Nason, a 2022 CEC mini-grant winner. Mrs. Nason is a native of Warner Robins. She has taught in Houston County for all 23 years of her career. For the last 6 years, she has served as a teacher at Houston County High School. Mrs. Nason understands the importance of getting to know her students and building relationships with them. She is passionate about teaching and wants to prepare her students for life after high school. As a CEC mini-grant winner, Mrs. Nason used the money to purchase a real cash register for her classroom. The cash register is being used to teach job skills. Students are learning how to count money, give change, and practice appropriate customer service skills. These skills will help students master their goals and prepare them for future employment. Thank you, Nina Nason, for making a difference in your classroom!





Special Olympics Georgia

Houston County High School hosted the Special Olympics Winter Games on January 11th, 12th and 13th. Students from across the district participated in basketball and level A skills. The crowd was filled with excitement as they watched the students compete. The top 4 finishers for each event received awards. Houston County High School partners assisted with event set up, clean up, and even enjoyed painting some of our athletes' faces! The HOCO Choir and Men's Quartet did an amazing job singing the National Anthem, 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, Dr. Scott, 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!



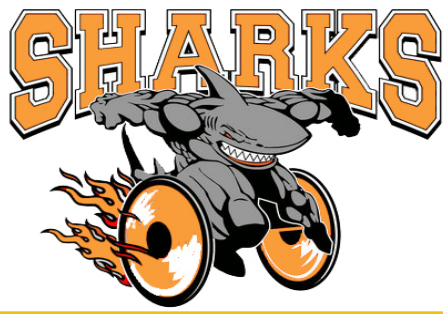


Special Olympics Georgia

Houston County High School students ran the concession stand for the Winter Special Olympics. Mrs. Rumell's and Mrs. Nason's students took orders, counted money, stocked items, and provided customer service. Mrs. Rummell said "the students enjoyed serving snacks to all of their friends around the county." These Bears assisted in set up and clean up for this event. Learning the value of hard work, perseverance, and work stamina is a valuable life skill. All students received great practice implementing these important life skills during this event. A special shout-out to the students and staff for all their hard work!



**Special
Olympics**
Georgia



The Houston County Sharks JV and Varsity basketball teams are off to a hot start! Both teams currently have 3 wins and no losses. Shark games are now being live streamed by Disability Connections on Facebook.



Houston County's Coach Anna Henry and Christy Jones presented at the 2023 Share the Wealth PE Conference January 26-28, in Jekyll Island, Ga. Share the Wealth PE Conference has hosted physical education teachers annually for over 35 years. Presentation topics included a description of the Houston County Adapted Sports Program and instructions on how to play wheelchair handball and football.

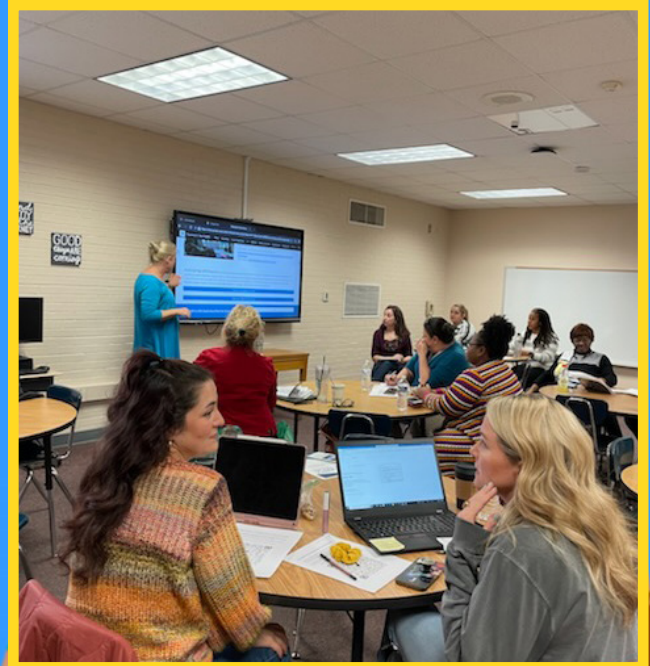
Sharks Coach, Christy Jones, had the honor to collaborate with Dr. Deborah Shapiro from Georgia State University. Coach Jones facilitated a lecture on wheelchair skills and the rules of wheelchair handball for Junior and Senior Kinesiology students on February 25th. Dr. Shapiro's research addresses the psychosocial factors influencing sports and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.





Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership

The Lindsey Student Support Center hosted the Middle GA Region Parent Mentor meeting on January 26th. The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership consists of parents and professionals working together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by enhancing communication and collaboration between families, educators, and the community. Parent Mentors from 13 districts attended this event. Speakers from Houston County Schools included Parent Mentor: Marina Jones and Transition Support Teacher: Dr. Brandi Mauney. Presentations focused on postsecondary options for individuals with disabilities and how families can plan for the future. Dr. Mauney developed a user-friendly website containing a library of resources for families. Attendees were provided access to this site and encouraged to share this information with families they support. All the parent mentors were excited to use the resources provided. Thank you Lindsey Student Support Center for hosting this event!





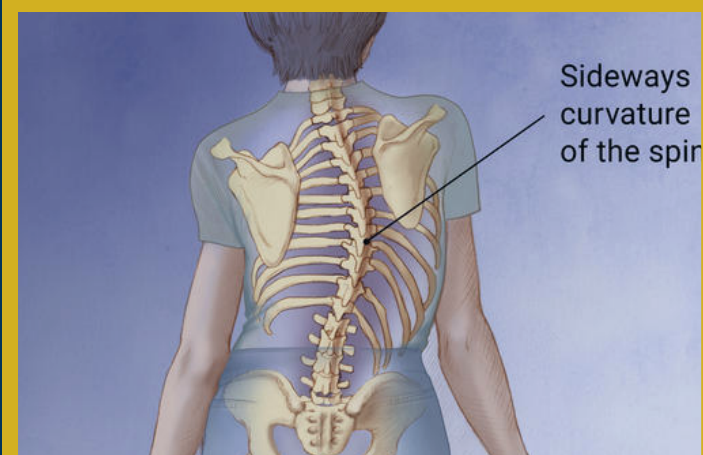
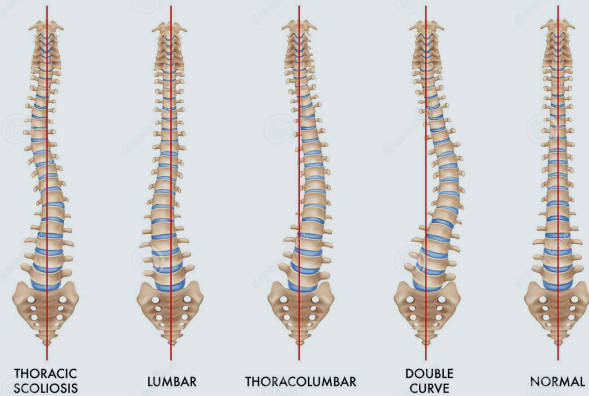
Houston County School District offers vision and hearing screenings to all 1st, 3rd, and 8th grade students annually. Vision and hearing screenings are an important service provided by the school health techs and nurses to catch any potential barriers affecting a student's classroom performance. These screenings act as a preventive measure to detect issues in early stages that could otherwise go unnoticed for years and possibly lead to more serious vision and hearing concerns. One example is Amblyopia, also known as lazy eye. This condition, if left untreated, can lead to monocular blindness. Early detection and treatment focuses on correcting the underlying causes of the condition and could be as simple as using an eye patch to train the eye. Over 6000 students were screened this year, that's 24,000 eyes and ears! Thank you to the nurses and health techs for their commitment and hard work.

Hearing & Vision
SCREENING

A graphic featuring a red rectangular box with white text. The background of the graphic includes a portion of a vision chart with letters and numbers, and a blue and white hearing aid.

Georgia law requires scoliosis screenings for children in public schools during early adolescence. Houston County Schools will screen all 6th and 8th grade students for scoliosis. Scoliosis is a curvature of the spine greater than 10 degrees. Asymmetrical shoulder elevation, shoulder blade protrusion, waist fold, and/or arm hang distance can be signs of a significant spine curve leading to scoliosis. Students who show signs of scoliosis are referred to the Health Department for follow up. Screenings offer an essential tool in early detection and prevention. Over 4000 students will be screened this school year between February 13th-17th by our school nurses. These state required screenings are always a success because of the team work from the school health techs and staff at the middle schools. Thank you for your support!

TYPES OF SCOLIOSIS



Middle School	Date	Time
Thomson Middle	February 13, 2023 (Monday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Mossy Creek Middle	February 13, 2023 (Monday)	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Warner Robins Middle	February 14, 2023 (Tuesday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Feagin Mill Middle	February 14, 2023 (Tuesday)	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Perry Middle	February 15, 2023 (Wednesday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Northside Middle	February 15, 2023 (Wednesday)	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Bonaire Middle	February 16, 2023 (Thursday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Huntington Middle	February 16, 2023 (Thursday)	12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lindsey Student Support Center	February 17, 2023 (Friday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
HC WIN Academy	February 17, 2023 (Friday)	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.