



STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

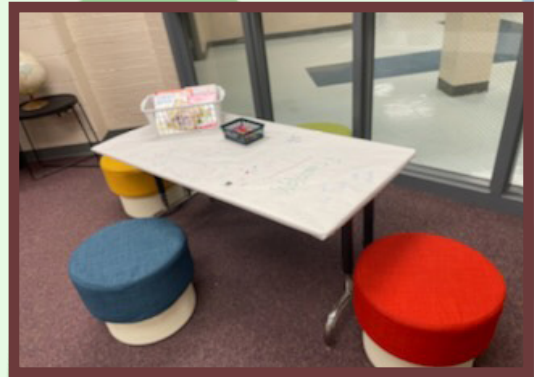
HERE, WE GROW... Special Education Teacher Skills

The Student Services Department launched the fourth cohort for Special Education Teacher Induction on August 23rd. This professional learning series includes forty-seven new Special Education Teachers. Teachers will participate in monthly sessions that address a wide range of Special Education and IDEA related topics. This month, the Houston County Behavior Intervention Team presented on the topic of Classroom Management. The learning targets of the presentation addressed the following areas: Elements of Effective Classroom Management; Classroom Organization; Defining Clear Expectations and Consequences; Proven Instructional Methods to Teach Behavior; and Building Positive Relationships. Participants were able to share their experiences and provided insight on how their management systems works in their classrooms.



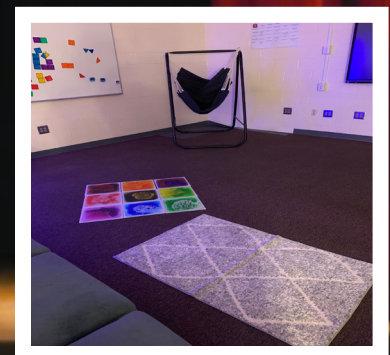
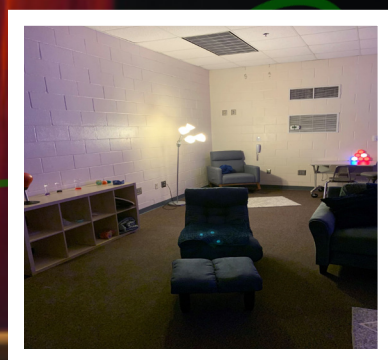
Here, WE GROW... a Student Support Center

Lindsey Elementary School has become the Lindsey Student Support Center to help families throughout the district. The new center will provide families with resources for success. "A lot of people who don't feel like they have that resource, will have it now," Houston County High School Senior Tyler Nguyen said. That's a good feeling for Nguyen, who, along with other students and their parents, will be able to come to the center to access everything from a computer lab to a food pantry to school supplies and more. Most importantly, the center is about community connections. Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Zabrina Cannady, says the student support center should be able to help students access services and supports. She also added "students who are hungry, traumatized, or marginalized are not going to learn at their full potential. We aim to take away some of the barriers that are preventing them from learning at their full potential at the Lindsey Student Support Center". The goal is for this center to be a place where parents and students can come to grow and learn.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Here, we grow...self-regulation strategies. This month's spotlight is on Melissa Stevens at Warner Robins High School. She and her team have created a sensory room. She has gone above and beyond, not only focusing on academic needs for her students, but considering all the needs of her students. Ms. Stevens shared, "with the opening of a new autism support program at Warner Robins High School, we recognized the need to create a safe and calming sensory room." The special education teachers leapt into action by collaborating on the creation of the sensory room in order to meet the needs of all. Ms. Stevens noted the sensory room is a space students come to decompress and get their sensory needs met. Ms. Stevens added, "students with autism become easily overwhelmed and have difficulty expressing this feeling. The sensory room provides a dedicated area for them to calm down and regain focus while working on self-regulation skills". This is just another way WRHS is living out the school's mission to EMPOWER AND INSPIRE ALL TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS. Thank you Ms. Stevens and WRHS teachers for this amazing collaboration to create a calming space for students.



HERE, WE GROW... SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Houston County High School, Perry High School, Veterans High School, Warner Robins High School, the Transition Academy, and Perry Middle School competed in the State Special Olympics Bocce Invitational on Friday, September 9, 2022, at the North Houston Sports Complex in Warner Robins. Our students were excited and ready to compete in this event! Teams from all around the state travelled to Houston County for the Bocce Invitational. Participating in this event helped prepare Houston County student-athletes for our local Fall Games hosted on October 20th-21st at the Transition Academy.

HERE, WE GROW... Physicals

Houston County offers free physicals to all Special Olympic athletes. This year, the physicals will be hosted at the Transition Academy on September 16, 2022, from 8:00AM-12:30PM. Dr. Helen-Louise Moore and members of her staff from Pediatric Associates will volunteer their time to ensure all students get their physicals.

Here, We grow... at Bonaire Elementary School.

The new Bonaire Elementary School Daily Living Center (DLC) provides many learning opportunities for students on alternative curriculum. On August 26th, students worked hard to treat BES staff to an Italian feast. They created the menu, decorated the new DLC, and prepared the feast. Each student had an assignment such as welcoming visitors, serving the feast, or cleaning up after their guests enjoyed lunch. This was the first of many events the class plans to host for the faculty at BES. Their goal is to make this treat a monthly occasion! Additionally, students started Bonaire Brew which is a coffee cart service that will be available to staff each Friday. If you are in the Bonaire Elementary area on Fridays, please stop by for a cup of coffee and a smile.



There is something special the start of a new school year brings. School Nutrition employees LOVE the start of school... the best part is seeing our students return after summer break! As it turns out, it looks like our students missed us too! We strive to make breakfast and lunch a fun, exciting, and anticipated part of the school day. During the first three weeks of this school year, the school nutrition department has provided over 200,000 breakfasts and 350,000 lunches...along with unlimited hugs and smiles. We are proud to be a part of the Houston County District!



For the last two school years, it has been our pleasure to serve all students' meals at no cost; however, the federal funding required to continue this has not been granted for this year. Therefore, we have returned to our standard application for Free or Reduced-Price meals. The district is encouraging all families to submit this application because information from the application secures funding for many areas in our district.

Please encourage all of our families to complete this application by visiting <https://www.nlappscloud.com/>. Here...we continue to grow.

More information on school meals, including pricing and Q&A's, can be found by visiting <https://www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition>.

HERE, WE GROW...AT THE TRANSITION ACADEMY!

Here, we grow continuously to produce high achieving students. We are excited to share about the expansion of the Transition Academy. Every day holds something new and exciting for our students! Last year, the Transition Academy had two classrooms. We now have three classes of students who participate in a variety of job-embedded and daily-living learning opportunities. Students participate in real-world activities with a focus on developing independence with daily living and self-care skills; social and behavioral skills; communication; motor skills; academic skills; and work readiness. Our three teachers, Tami Atkinson, Kevin Robinson, and Brooks Cumbie, and their paraprofessionals provide one-on-one instruction so our students maximize their potential and increase their independence. Learning opportunities take place on and off campus with our exceptional staff and students. On campus opportunities provide students lessons in learning how to plan, budget, and prepare their own meals. The on campus Daily Living Center provides a place for students to cook the meals for their casserole business. Additional on campus growth is taking place with students learning about the car wash business. Students developed a business plan, and are learning to wash and detail cars.

Our teachers have also grown our off campus learning opportunities by developing community partnerships throughout the district. Students participate in learning opportunities off campus at local businesses. They develop necessary skills to navigate their community as independently as possible. Community work sites provide on the job training for our students, allowing them to gain work-ready skills and explore career interests. Partners such as Rigby's, Ole Times, Tractor Supply, ABBA House, and Warner Robins High School Nutrition Department have been long time sites for vocational instruction and continue to provide valuable learning opportunities for our students. Here, we grow in our community partnerships with the addition of Belk and Gold Cup Bowling. We are very excited to watch our students and our community partnerships continue to grow over the next few years!

