

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

HOUSTON COUNTY SHARKS



The Houston County Sharks Junior Varsity and Varsity teams both opened their basketball seasons on January 9, 2021. The JV team went up against a big West Georgia Wolverines team. Defensively, the young Sharks team struggled against the physically stronger Wolverines team. Jaden Screen, MCMS, and Naomie Wilson, MCMS, stood out as team leaders assisting the new players during the game. The Houston County Sharks Varsity team started their season with a home double header. The Sharks faced off against a strong team from DeKalb County. The Dekalb Streaks have a senior that just signed a full scholarship to play wheelchair basketball with the University of Texas at Arlington. During both games, the Sharks defenders Germir Gordon (MCMS), Miranda Lawhorn (PHS), and Dalton Crosby (HMS) did a great job shutting down the Streaks' powerhouse player. He was held to 4 points in the first game and 6 points in the second game. The Sharks offense struggled early in both games. They had to overcome a 10-point deficit in both games. During the first game, the Sharks pulled ahead in the 6th period after trailing the whole game to win 24-23. The second game was close with the Sharks pulling ahead with 30 seconds on the clock winning 21-20. Dylan Thompson (VHS) showed leadership on the court leading both the offense and defense. He had 10 points on the day. Joseph Hall (VHS) started in his first wheelchair basketball game and had a total of 8 points. Adonis Brown (HCHS) led all scorers with a total of 16 points. Langley Yoh (HCHS) added 2 points, and Germir Gordon hit a game winning free throw.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Houston County Schools continue to recognize the importance of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Due to the increased significance of school climate in these uncertain times, students are participating in PBIS sessions virtually and staff members are continuing to reward the outstanding achievements of our students. Russell Elementary School composed a video outlining their expectations for PBIS in their school. The video was highlighted on 13WMAZ. Bonaire Middle School created an online reward store for students to select prizes when they meet their goals. All of our schools across the county have done a tremendous job implementing PBIS this school year.

Houston County Schools have traditionally been well represented at the annual Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support conference in Atlanta with teams from various schools in attendance. In December of 2020, the conference was held virtually. Courtney Herbert and Renee Lee from Perry High School were chosen to present in a large group session. In addition, Todd George, from Shirley Hills Elementary School, hosted a breakout session. They all had excellent presentations!

Community support for PBIS in our schools has been growing over the past years. Mrs. Rochelle Arias, owner of Dress You Up Formals, made an unexpected contribution to support PBIS at Veterans High School. Community support from our partners is one thing that makes Houston County a special place to live and educate students.



Professional Learning

For January's Special Education Teacher Induction session, Interrelated teachers met with Student Services Coordinator Bonnie Brown. Their session focused on Co-Teaching, an instructional approach that provides more intense and individualized instruction in the general education setting. Co-Teaching allows students with disabilities to access the general curriculum with the benefit of both a professionally qualified general education teacher (the content expert) and a special education teacher (the specially designed instruction expert) teaching the class. Teachers were provided instruction on the six models of Co-Teaching and best practices for instructional planning between Co-Teaching teams.

Also during the session, teachers of students with intellectual disabilities met with Larissa Beecher, Alternate Access Support Teacher. These teachers received training on instructional resources and programs provided by the Houston County district. Programs discussed included News-2-You, Unique Learning System, and GADOE platforms. Mrs. Beecher collaborated with the attendees to tailor the training to meet their current classroom/program needs.

SHARKS YOGA



Mossy Creek Middle School recently hosted the Shark Yoga Exhibition. Members of the Houston County Sharks coaching staff, Rene' Langlois (Interpreter), Jamie Schneller (Interpreter), and Coach Christy Jones, introduced future yoga teachers from Homegrown Yoga to Shark Yoga. The purpose of the training was to help alleviate the anxiety teachers may have while working with individuals with disabilities in their classes. It also provided them an opportunity to experience for themselves what it would be like for someone with a disability to navigate a yoga class. Each teacher was assigned a specific disability such as a vision impairment, loss of limb, paralysis, hearing loss or spastic cerebral palsy. The teachers were tasked with taking a short class while working out the adaptations for each yoga pose as an individual with a disability would. After the class, the Sharks staff answered many questions involving both the adapted sports program and provided more information on how to effectively work with people with disabilities.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Houston County Special Olympics will be hosting the annual "Run for Love" 5K virtually this year through runsignup.com. The race is a child friendly event catering to runners, walkers, and families in our community. Proceeds will help send our teams to state games while also providing specialized athletic supplies for our program to elementary, middle, and high schools. Participants can sign up and report their times upon completion of a 5k (3.1 miles) before March 11th. Registration started on January 13th, and will close on March 11th. Participants are welcome to run their 5k at their convenience and desired location. They are also encouraged to enter their times on the race website. Each participant will be given a race t-shirt at pre-determined locations on March 22nd, from 2:00PM-6:30PM. Due to race being held virtually, there are no awards given. For more information, please contact our race coordinator, Mollie Jones at Northside High School. Mollie.jones@hcbe.net

We are excited to introduce a new event this year. The Houston County Basketball Shootout will be held virtually in February and March. This county wide event will give each school the opportunity to have athletes compete in different basketball events including: basketball team skills, 3-point shootout, free throw shootout, hot spot, dribbling, and passing. The Adapted PE classes will host these events for our students at each school. Students will be placed in brackets and their scores will be uploaded to a live document as they compete against students across the county. Adapted Physical Education Specialist, Tracy Fendley and Stephen Roberson will tabulate the scores and award 1st-3rd places for all events. Medals will be awarded and delivered to each student. A video presentation will be made of all medal winners and shared with each school.



YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



School Nutrition is proud to have Abby Soisson as part of our team. She is a Perry High student in the Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP). Abby has been a wonderful asset to us, and we are going to miss her when she graduates. We feel honored that she has spent her time in School Nutrition, and we are super excited to hear of her acceptance to the University of Tennessee. We expect to hear many great things from Abby in the future! Her article featured in the Houston County Wall of Fame Newsletter is below.

Perry High School Senior, Abigail Soisson Youth Apprenticeship Program Perry High School senior, Abigail Soisson, is a second year Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) student whose job placement is with the Houston County Board of Education School Nutrition Program. Abigail's experience introduced her to supply chain management, which she enjoys very much. She even used her YAP experience in her University of Tennessee application essay.

According to Abigail's essay, "one of the most difficult decisions high school students are faced with is what field they should pursue after they graduate. Had I not been offered an incredible internship, I would still be contemplating my answer to this question." She also wrote, "Before working at the School Nutrition Department, I could not tell you what an invoice, a check run, a bid, or even what supply chain management was. My internship has provided me with hands-on experience in many aspects of not only supply chain management but also skills used in the business world. I am so grateful for the opportunities that my internship has provided me with and, most importantly, the interest in this field that it has created within me."

Abigail closes her essay writing, "With the University of Tennessee's supply chain management program being ranked nationally and my family's ties with the university and the state itself, I cannot help but have a connection and love for Tennessee. My two years working at the School Nutrition Department have piqued my interest in supply chain management and I look forward to continuing my exploration of it at the University of Tennessee next fall."

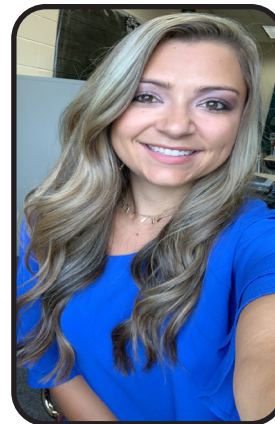
According to Kelli Gallman, HCBOE School Nutrition Department, "Abigail is an awesome YAP student. She always turns her assignments in on time and does fantastic on her job. Abby is a GREAT employee; she's a very quick learner and a team player." Because Abigail has worked over 720 hours since July of 2019 and she has earned the NOCTI Culinary Arts Cook Level 2 from her culinary arts classes, Abigail is also a Youth Apprenticeship Pathway Completer. She will receive a certificate for her pathway completion to go along with her Georgia Department of Labor Georgia's BEST certificate. Abigail's future is a bright one!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

We are excited to spotlight a homegrown, first-year teacher from Feagin Mill Middle School. Ms. Taylor Hancock is a proud graduate of Houston County High School. Her principal at FMMS, Mr. Sams, was once her teacher at MCMS! Ms. Hancock completed her Bachelors of Special Education at Georgia College & State University. She is now in the process of completing her Masters, also with GCSU. In her free time she enjoys going to the gym, taking long walks, getting coffee, and attending church with her family. Ms. Hancock will marry her best friend, Brad, in June. They have a two-year-old golden retriever named Remy.

Teaching has been a lifelong dream for Ms. Hancock. Her decision to become a teacher stems from her passion to help others. She remembers at a very young age pretending to be a teacher by turning the family dog into her student. Her enthusiasm for teaching was fueled by all the amazing teachers she had while attending Houston County schools. Her favorite part of teaching is developing relationships with her students. She tries her best every day to make sure each student leaves knowing they are cared for and loved. She feels driven to be a supporter, encourager, and a constant in the life of her students because she realizes not all students have that person in their life.

Ms. Hancock has overcome many first-year teacher obstacles, including beginning her career during the middle of a pandemic, while striving for excellence. A visit to her classroom reveals that she has perfected the art of creating a warm, caring environment where students are engaged and want to succeed. She is truly making a difference in the lives of her FMMS students.





PARENT INFORMATION WORKSHOPS ON SPECIAL EDUCATION TOPICS

**February
18th**

TOPIC: GUARDIANSHIP

TIME: 6:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING AT <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 812 8138 3721

Passcode: 675735

**March
18th**

TOPIC: TRANSITION BASICS

TIME: 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING AT <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 828 6718 7153

Passcode: 222965

**April
15th**

TOPIC: SENSORY TIPS FOR HOME

TIME: 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING AT <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 890 1441 9779

Passcode: 294998

**May
11th**

TOPIC: SUMMER RESOURCES

TIME: 10:00 AM

VIRTUAL MEETING AT <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 825 0147 9148

Passcode: 346581

Please contact Marina Jones, Parent Mentor, with any questions @
marina.jones@hcbe.net or (478) 396-1784

AAASP SPORTS PROGRAM
2020-21 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
MASTER SCHEDULE



Times subject to change, for information call Robyn Hootselle at (678) 283-4424

DATE	DIVISION	VISITING TEAM	@	HOME TEAM	TIME
Sat., 1-9	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-9	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-9	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Houston Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-9	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Houston Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-16		BYE WEEKEND			
Sat., 1-23	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-23	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-23	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Gwinnett Heat	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-23	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Gwinnett Heat	4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-30	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-30	V	Gwinnett Heat	@	Houston Sharks	12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sat., 1-30	V	Gwinnett Heat	@	Houston Sharks	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sat., 1-30	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Henry Hurricanes	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-30	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Henry Hurricanes	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-6	JV	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-6	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	Gwinnett Heat	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-6	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	Gwinnett Heat	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-13		BYE WEEKEND			
Sat., 2-20	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Muscogee Lions	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-20	JV	West GA Wolverines (Troup)	@	Muscogee Lions	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-20	V	Houston Sharks	@	Henry Hurricanes	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-20	V	Houston Sharks	@	Henry Hurricanes	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

AAASP/GHSA WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021
ONE JUNIOR VARSITY SEMI-FINAL GAME
ONE JUNIOR VARSITY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
TO BE HOSTED LOCALLY BY 1st PLACE IN STANDINGS
TWO VARSITY SEMI-FINAL GAMES TO BE PLAYED LOCALLY
AND HOSTED BY 1st & 2nd PLACE IN STANDINGS
VARSITY CHAMPIONSHIP: FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021 @ 2:00 PM
AT THE MACON COLISEUM, MACON, GA