



STUDENT SERVICES

REPORT

STUDENT SERVICES KICK-OFF



The Student Services Staff began the school year with their annual “Kick-off.” We were able to formally welcome the newest members of the Student Services family and enjoy an activity based on the qualities of a teammate. Mr. Steven Hornyak reviewed system data and updated the staff on the achievement of our students with disabilities. Our team is ready to take on the school year!

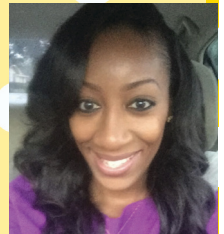
welcome

TO STUDENT SERVICES



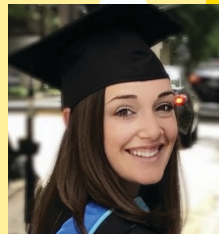
Amy Velazquez is a new Occupational Therapist (OT). A native of Florida, she moved to Michigan in 2007 and recently moved to Georgia in 2014. In 2004, Amy graduated from FAU with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science and Health Promotion. In 2007, she received her Masters in OT from Nova Southeastern University. Amy has worked in a variety of settings including outpatient hand clinics, hospital based in-patient, the school system and hospital based outpatient clinics. Amy enjoys spending time with her husband, Juan, and her two sons.

Kanisha Tripp is the new Assistive Technology Teacher. She is originally from Vienna, Ga. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Georgia Southwestern State University in 2007. She earned a Masters in Postsecondary Education at Troy State University and obtained her Specialist in Middle Grades Education at Georgia Southwestern State University. During her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and giving back to the community. She is looking forward to an AWESOME year in her new position!



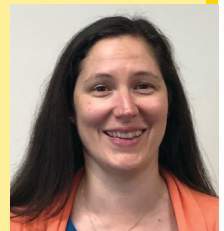
Tara Stripling is a School Psychology Intern. She is from Elko, GA and a product of Houston County School System. She received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Valdosta State University. After completing her bachelor's degree in 2013, she worked in the Houston County School System for 2 years as a Special Education Paraprofessional. Currently, she is working on her School Psychology, Ed.S. degree at Georgia Southern University. In her free time, she loves spending time with family and friends, traveling, cooking and reading mystery novels.

Marin Hanna is a School Psychology Intern. She is from Moultrie, GA, where her family still resides. She graduated from Mercer University, where she played golf for four years. (Go Bears!) Now, she enjoys playing golf for fun with friends and family. She is in her last year of school at Georgia State University to obtain her Masters. She recently moved from Atlanta to Warner Robins. She loves being outdoors, finding new food spots, and hanging out with friends. She is looking forward to a great year in the Houston County School System.



Lily Ware is a School Psychologist. She is excited to be joining the team of school psychologists in Houston County! She has been working as a school psychologist since 2013. She has a B.S. in Psychology from GCSU, and an M.S./Ed.S in School Psychology from FSU. She is a Houston County native, so she is thrilled to be back home. Currently, she lives in Byron with her husband and one year-old son. She is looking forward to serving Russell Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, and Northside High this school year.

Katherine Malone is a new Deaf and Hard of Hearing teacher. She has worked in the county as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing paraprofessional, audiology paraprofessional, and MOID paraprofessional for the past 7 years. She recently graduated from Valdosta State University with a Masters in Special Education/Deaf Education. This year will be her 8th year with Houston County, but her first as a teacher. She is looking forward to working with the excellent teachers and staff in Houston County and starting her new path!

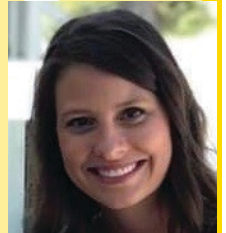


welcome TO STUDENT SERVICES



Rusti Blount is a new Program Specialist. She has a B.S. in Business Administration, a M.Ed. in Special Education, a Post Graduate Principal Certification and is currently a Doctoral Candidate in Educational Leadership with a specialization in Transformational Leadership. She has served as a Special Education teacher and Primary School Principal. She has been married for 19 years to Tom, who is the Command Chief for the 461st ACW Jstars. They have four children and are excited to be part of this community.

Heather Mattox is a new Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA). She is a graduate of Middle Georgia State College, where she received an associates degree in Occupational Therapy. She has worked primarily in the pediatric and school setting for the past nine years. She is married to Jarred, who is a recruiter for the Air National Guard. She and her husband have 3 wonderful children. In her spare time, she enjoys spending her time with her family and working in the children's ministry in her church.



Tometrice Joiner is a new Behavioral Intervention Team Paraprofessional. Tometrice is a mother of three: a college freshman, a junior at WRHS, and a seventh grader at WRMS. These three consume all of her time! She has served as a SID/PID self contained paraprofessional at FMMS for three years. She has over fifteen years of experience in the school setting. Currently, she holds a degree in marketing. Using her acquired knowledge, previous experience and new trainings, she hopes to make this a great school year!

April Nelson is a new Social Worker. She is married to Quentin Nelson, who is the love of her life. They have a smart and very funny little girl named Nevaeh Joy who is 3 years old. April loves spending time with family and friends and volunteering. She previously worked as a PreK Resource Coordinator and is excited to be working in the Houston County School System! She has been a Social Worker for the last 16 years. She loves what she does and hopes to be able to make a difference in the lives of the children in Houston County.

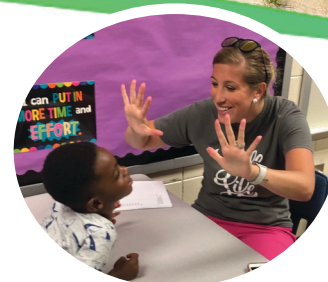
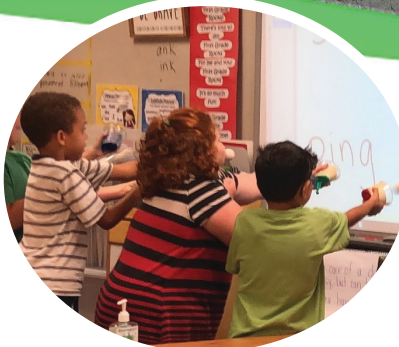


Annette Pender is a new Area Manager in School Nutrition. Annette started working for School Nutrition 14 years ago as a food assistant at Perry High School. She became the manager at Linwood Elementary and Crossroads Academy 2 years later. Annette now works at Central Office as the Area Manager overseeing SNP Catering. She is married to Ted Pender. They have 4 children, 2 in-laws and 6 grandchildren between them. Annette loves to fish, spend time with her family and spoil her grandchildren every chance she gets.

Brittney Townsend is a new Human Resource secretary for School Nutrition. She is a graduate of Perry High School Class of 2007. She began her employment with Houston County Board of Education at the age of 17, where she served in the role of Human Resources Secretary for 8 years. Other opportunities for growth sent Brittney and her family to Atlanta for 3 years. After having a baby, Brittney and her family decided to come back home to Houston County to raise their son. Brittney was hired for her current position with Houston County in May 2019.



Vicki Purvis is a new Area Manager in School Nutrition. She is in her 9th year with school nutrition, starting as a substitute food assistant at Lindsey Elementary. She has worked in numerous kitchens across the county and has been trained to serve from the heart by dozens of skilled, caring staff members. She is enjoying her new role as an Area Manager. It gives her the opportunity to be engaged with more of the people, programs, and ideas that make our program so successful. She and her husband have been married for almost 30 years and have 4 adult children.



Hooray for ESY! The elementary Extended School Year (ESY) program held at Matt Arthur Elementary was an awesome experience. Approximately 120 students with disabilities participated in three weeks of learning while focusing on their IEP goals. The program ran Monday-Wednesday, June 10th-26th from 8:00AM-1:30PM.

The program consisted of 24 classes to meet the varying needs of our population. Teachers, paraprofessionals, Speech-Language Pathologists, sign language interpreters, and a med tech all joined forces to serve our students.

The transportation department ensured safe travels for all students each day. Eleven buses transported students to the elementary ESY program.

Students were provided breakfast and lunch from the school nutrition department daily. On an average, 100 students were served breakfast and 120 students were served lunch. Food was prepared by the Morningside site.

On the last day of ESY, Dr. Varee Harrell, Principal at Matt Arthur Elementary sponsored a luncheon for the ESY staff. We appreciate the use of Matt Arthur Elementary and their gracious hospitality.

MIDDLE &
HIGH ESY

The summer 2019 Extended School Year (ESY) program for middle and high school students was hosted at Thomson Middle School. The program took place Monday through Wednesday, June 10th through June 26th, for three weeks. It accommodated a total of 83 students with disabilities who qualify for and receive direct services for targeted IEP goals.

The program was composed of 15 classes to meet the needs of our students. Staffing included teachers, paraprofessionals, sign language interpreters, a med tech and a speech language pathologist. Ad-

ditional middle and high school ESY services include priming services in preparation for transitions back to the school setting for 156 students.

Special Education transportation was provided for the majority of students participating in the program. Eleven buses ran daily, each staffed with a bus driver and bus monitor. All Extended School Year students participated in the Summer Feeding Program. Nutritious breakfast and lunch meals were prepared by School Nutrition staff members, with over 500 breakfasts and 600 lunches being served to ESY students.

CREDIT RECOVERY

NUMBER OF COMPLETIONS BY COURSE AND GRADUATES			
	Number of Students	Total Courses Completed	Graduates
Special Education	83	147	3
General Education	18	21	18
TOTAL	101	168	21

During the summer of the 2018-19 school year, the Student Services Department offered a four-week Credit Recovery opportunity at Warner Robins High School. The program was held June 3rd through June 28th, Monday-Friday, from 9AM– 2PM. Daily transportation was provided to and from each high school. Breakfast and lunch were also provided. The program employed four special education teachers and four para-professionals to assist the students and facilitate the Odyssey Ware web-based program.

Students from all 5 high schools were given the opportunity to attend this program. The students were general and special education students. The general education students were in the 2019 graduation cohort but did not pass required courses to graduate with their peers in May. These students were allowed to take courses at a cost of \$150 per course. Upon completion of their

coursework, these students would be 2019 graduates.

The other student group consisted of special education students grades 9th-12th. The goal for these students is to allow them to take courses to get back on track for graduation, therefore increasing the Houston County graduation rate for students with disabilities. The high school special education teachers, counselors, and Program Specialists worked together to identify special education students in grades 9th-12th who were credit deficient by one or more Carnegie units. This opportunity was available to these students through their Individual Education Plans.

A total of 168 courses were completed during the four weeks of Credit Recovery. There was a total of 21 graduates. There were 18 general education students and 3 special education students who completed classes and were then eligible for graduation.

BEING ABUSED?

LIVING THROUGH A DISASTER LIKE
A BAD ACCIDENT, FIRE, OR HURRICANE?

SEEING SOMETHING VIOLENT?

BEING BULLIED?

LOSING A LOVED ONE?

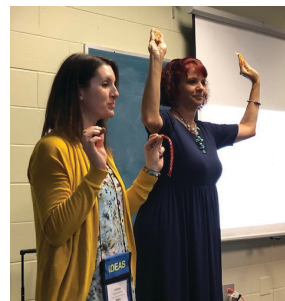
NOT FEELING SAFE IN
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



Perry High, Lindsey Elementary, Shirley Hills Elementary, Warner Robins High, Houston County High, Bonaire Middle, Bonaire Elementary, Perry Middle, Tucker Elementary, Northside High School, WIN Academy and Russell Elementary participated in 3.5 hours of Trauma 101 training during Pre-Planning. Participants developed an understanding of how trauma can impact children, as well as the ways in which the impact of trauma may manifest in their behavior. They identified potential strategies to support children and families who have been impacted by trauma. Several schools in the system have already completed trauma training previously. Several schools in the system completed trauma training previously, and we will be working to have all of our educators trained in Trauma 101 by the end of July 2020.



IDEAS CONFERENCE



Each year the Georgia Department of Education hosts the Institute Designed for Educating All Students conference (IDEAS). This year it was held at the beginning of June on St. Simons Island. Several of our teachers were chosen to present during this conference.

Stephanie Justen presented on “Creating and Sustaining an Autism Support Program.” Her one hour presentation focused on behavior, social skills training, and how to provide support for parents and non-special education teachers. Natalie Preston and Pamela Mayfield offered a session on “Trends in Assistive Technology.” Their presentation included several fun door prizes and demonstrations of apps and technology for students. Christy Descartes and Larissa Beecher delivered “Creating a Standards-based classroom does not have to be hard.” This presentation taught teachers how to break down standards and develop lessons to address students of all levels. Larissa Beecher and Gina Suckow taught “Science is Fun.” This presentation was a demonstration of several standards-based science lessons that addressed various functioning levels. Larissa Beecher also collaborated with two Bibb County teachers to present “Mapping Classroom Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities.” Over the course of this two hour session, educators were equipped with the strategies and tools to adapt curricular instruction to meet the growing needs and requirements of students diagnosed with cognitive disabilities.



Summer Feeding Program



School may have been out for the summer, but the Houston County School Nutrition Program continued serving meals throughout June and July, offering meals free of charge to children under the age of 18. This past summer the Summer Feeding Program operated in three schools, employed more than 50 people, and had 7 vans delivering breakfast and lunch to neighborhoods. Meals were also distributed to over 60 community sites that began signing up as early as March. This summer, Houston County School Nutrition served over 165,688 breakfasts and over 175,738 lunches for a total of 341,426 meals. We are proud to offer a program that bridges the gap between the end of May and the beginning of August so children are able to return to school ready to learn!



SHARK

Summer Camp

The Houston County Sharks never rest!! This summer they had the opportunity to work with Coach Ron Lykins, the University of Missouri's Wheelchair basketball coach and the men's Paralympic head coach. Coach Lykins is the winningest international coach in NWBA history. His teams have won gold medals in 3 Paralympic games, one World Championship and two Para Pan American Games. He is also the first head coach to win Paralympic gold medals with both the

U.S. Men's and U.S. Women's Paralympic Teams.



Coach Lykins worked with the Sharks to improve their chair skills and to help implement a new defensive strategy used by collegiate and national teams. The players also worked on improving their shooting form and increasing their range. The players gave Coach Ron 110% each day! The SHARKS will be back on the court starting August 7th with their first practice. Handball season will begin September 7th!



APEX

The Georgia Apex Program, funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, held a week long camp at Warner Robins High School June 3rd-7th. Ten Houston County students participated in activities to grow social and emotional resilience. APEX creates partnerships between community-based mental health providers and local schools to provide school-based mental health services. The program began as a pilot in August 2015 and is now in its fifth year of implementation. The program's goals include increasing access to mental health services for children and youth, providing early detection of child and adolescent mental health needs, and strengthening coordination between community-based mental health providers and local schools.

Paraprofessional Meeting



On Tuesday, June 25, 2019, Michele Casey, Human Resources Certification Coordinator, met with the special education paraprofessionals working at Extended School Year (ESY) programs. The purpose of this meeting was to identify paraprofessionals who currently possess Associates, Bachelors, and Master's degrees in fields outside of education to assist in determining the most efficient route to obtain their teaching certification. Twenty-three current Houston County paraprofessionals attended this session.

Any paraprofessional interested in pursuing a teaching certificate should speak to their program specialist or contact Human Resources.

SUMMER SCHOOL



Student Services collaborated closely with the summer school staff at Warner Robins Middle School to provide support to students with disabilities who were attending middle school summer school. Classes were held Monday through Friday during the month of June, with morning and afternoon courses being offered to middle school students. Fifty-two students were supported by five special education teachers and three special education paraprofessionals. The goal of the student services staff was to ensure that classroom and testing accommodations were in place, as well as support teachers working with special education students in the classroom setting.