



# STUDENT SERVICES

# REPORT

## AND THE WINNER IS...



**C**ongratulations to the SHARKS!!! Both the JV and Varsity teams brought home the State Handball Championship Trophy on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!!!! The JV team defeated the Muscogee Lions to earn their first state title since we began the JV division. The Varsity team successfully defended their title by defeating the Gwinnett Heat 14-1! GO SHARKS!!!!





# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



This month we are highlighting Mr. Jeremy Downing! Mr. Downing currently teaches a class for students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities at C. B. Watson Primary. Previously, he taught at Hilltop Elementary and Pearl Stephens Elementary. Jeremy has a degree in secondary education as well as early Childhood/special education, with certifications in Early childhood/special education and adaptive behaviors P-12. When asked what is most rewarding about teaching, he stated “the most rewarding part of being a teacher is when students gain new information or skills and learn how to apply them in everyday situations.” Jeremy also coaches softball and baseball at Veterans High School. He is married and has three children. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping with his family, and cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners football team.

## Transition Academy

Students in Mrs. Atkinson’s class at the Transition Academy have been busy working on their 2019-2020 Community Service Project. They are making hand-made blankets for nursing home residents. The students work together in groups of two to cut and tie the pieces together. Once completed, they enjoy visiting and spending time with the residents when they deliver the gifts. We are very proud that our students want to give back to the community in such a thoughtful way.







# Fair Food



**T**he Fair came early again for Houston County students! This is the second year of a fun tradition celebrating the Georgia National Fair by offering “fair food” on the menu the week leading up to fall break. This year’s offerings featured new items including Honey Barbecue Baby Back Ribs, Foot Long Hot Dogs, Polish Sausage with Onions and Peppers, Calzones, and Corn Nuggets. Old favorites like Funnel Cakes, Corn Dogs, and Moz-

zarella Sticks made it on the menu as well! Although the food is quite the attraction for this promotion, several of our schools really embodied the atmosphere of the fair by transforming their cafeterias from top to bottom. A few schools even collaborated with their PTO to bring the fair fun beyond the cafeteria walls. The Fair Promotion brought so much joy and excitement this year, and we are hopeful that next year will be even better!



# Celebrate Attendance!



**H**ouston County Schools are consistently celebrating regular school attendance. Research indicates that students who have good attendance achieve at a much higher rate academically and are more socially and emotionally well-adjusted. CBW held a poster contest and started class competitions. WRMS, NMS and NES promoted attendance by having spirit weeks where students were able to show their creativity. Students are having fun while learning about the importance of being dependable and punctual, not only in school, but in daily life.



# Show & Tell



**O**n October 24, 2019 our small group teachers for students with Emotional Behavior Disorders and Behavior Specialists attended the “Motivating and Managing Hard to Reach, Uninterested and Disruptive Students” training conducted by Brian Mendler. Karen Faircloth stated, “This is the best seminar I have ever attended.” Brian Mendler challenged us to first look at ourselves and see how we react to those who are displaying disrespectful behavior. Mr. Mendler shared with the group, “discomfort is an appetizer for growth; embrace discomfort and look at it as a way to make you stronger.” The students we are entrusted with are struggling and it is up to us to help them.

It only takes one teacher who is willing to embrace these students in order for change to happen. Self-reflection comes first and is imperative to the success of our students and ourselves. He asked us to open ourselves up to our students by sharing about our personal struggles. When we share our struggles we become human and relatable to our students. The students can then trust us with their struggles.

On Monday, October 28, 2019 these same teachers met together to share ideas and suggestions on what they want to take back and implement in their classrooms. These exceptional teachers returned to their classrooms and made changes based on trainings.



# SLP Webinars



The Speech and Language Pathologists spent October 14<sup>th</sup> participating in professional learning. The SLP department was excited to have the opportunity to come together and utilize their PL Day to watch three different two-hour webinars from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The SLPs were able to earn CEU credits towards maintaining their national certification. Webinar topics included Assessment and Communication Development of Bilingual Children, Strategies for Engaging in Difficult Conversations in the School Setting, and The How and Why of Executive Functions: Impacts on Language and Learning. The information presented helps to build the skills sets of the SLPs as they work to address the needs of the wide variety of speech and language disorders present in our district.

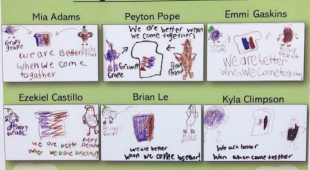
## POSTCARD Contest

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

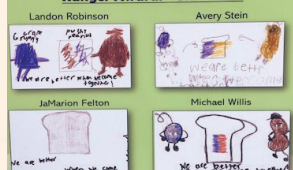


Mrs. Suckow's class at FMMS was honored at the Peanut Festival by former President Jimmy Carter. Each year students from around Georgia compete in the Jimmy Carter postcard contest. Students draw pictures on index cards that relate to a theme. Over 4000 students competed. Winning students were given a special certificate with a copy of their artwork and a gold medal. Students enjoyed peanut butter ice cream and fried PB&J sandwiches, but the most incredible honor was meeting former President Carter!

### Ranger Awards—6th Grade



### Ranger Awards—8th Grade





# 2019 Aspire Awards



**S**unday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Mark Scott, Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Mrs. Beth McLaughlin, Coach Christy Jones, Coach Jeff McDaniel, and players, O'lando Hicks and Jordan Kozloski, were recognized for their contributions to the Adaptive Sports Program at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aspire Awards Banquet. Nominee Jordan Kozloski was recognized for accomplishments as a stand-out female athlete. Coach Jeff McDaniel was recognized for his volunteer contributions as a member of the Sharks Coaching staff.

O'lando Hicks won the award for Outstanding Male Athlete for 2019. O'lando has been a member of the Sharks team for seven years. During this time, he has

helped to lead his team to 20 state championships. He has also won six individual state championship titles as a member of the Warner Robins High School track team.

Dr. Mark Scott, Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Mrs. Beth McLaughlin, and Coach Christy Jones received the award for Advocacy. All four recipients were recognized for their belief in the benefit of having an Adaptive Sports program. Mrs. Beth McLaughlin was also recognized for her support of the Adaptive Sports program through the public relations department. The Aspire Awards Banquet recognizes programs, players, and coaches from all over the nation. We are proud to say Houston County brought home the most awards!



# HIGH LEVERAGE PRACTICES

Middle and High School Special Education Teachers participated in High Leverage Practices Professional Learning on October 14 provided by Metro East and Middle Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS). What are high leverage practices? HLP's are research based educational practices that yield the greatest results in the form of student learning. Profession-

al learning focused on the instructional set of HLP's. Teachers learned the research supporting these practices, but most importantly had the opportunity to see and participate in lessons that demonstrate these practices. This professional learning centered around two specific strategies that integrate the high leverage practices of explicit instruction and student engagement.



## Instructional Strategies

Special Education Paraprofessionals participated in Instructional Strategies Professional Learning on October 14<sup>th</sup> provided by Metro East and Middle Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS). Paras learned highly effective mnemonic strategies to support student learning. A “mnemonic” is a word, sentence, picture or technique that should improve or strengthen memory. Paras

were introduced to the effectiveness of “mnemonic interventions across study methods, educational settings, student ages, and disabilities in the improvement of academic performance, typically measured by recall of word meanings or factual information” (Wolgemuth, Cobb, & Alwell, 2008). They had the opportunity to develop mnemonic strategies to support vocabulary acquisition.

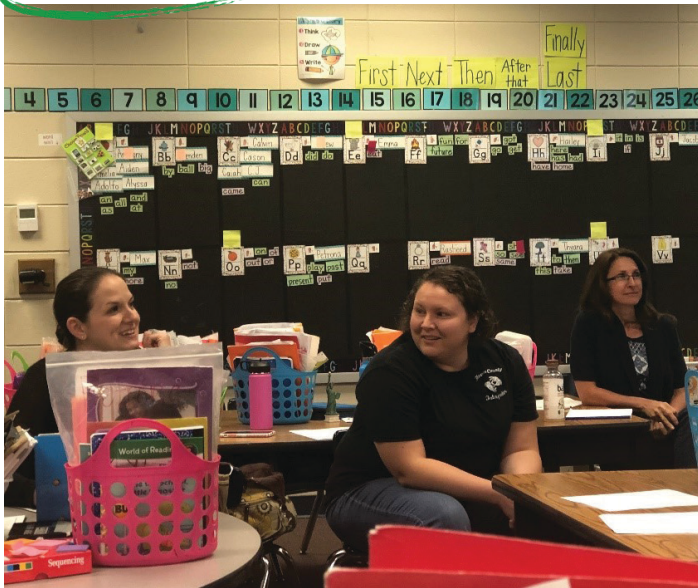






## ID TEACHERS

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Professional Learning was held in the annex auditorium for all teachers of students with Intellectual Disabilities. The training focused on assessment and embedding functional skills into the Extended Content Standards. Kristen Honaker and Lynn Hawkins shared instructional technology resources that teachers can use for daily instruction and assessment. Various methods of assessment were discussed and teachers worked collaboratively to create standards-based assessments. These assessments were shared among teachers and will be used in their classrooms. Groups determined functional skills that can be embedded into priority standards throughout daily instruction. Teachers and presenters shared additional teaching and engagement resources, such as brain break sites, assessment organization, classroom literature, and more! The day was packed with learning and fun!



## SIGN LANGUAGE & INTERPRETERS

Our Sign Language Interpreters participated in Professional Learning on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Presenters included teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing as well as three of our sign language interpreters. Presentations were on basic IEP eligibility information, fingerspelling as a way to help with spelling instruction, and how to interpret for situations pertaining to mental health. The Professional Learning time offered the department a much needed session together to exchange ideas.



# Special Olympics



Houston County High School hosted Fall Special Olympics for Elementary schools on October 24th and Middle/High schools on October 25th. Twenty-seven schools with over 600 students from our

county schools participated in Bocce, soft-ball skills, soccer and level A events. Veterans High School partners and athletes performed a musical dance to “Thriller” and the “Get Up Challenge” during the opening ceremonies.



# Transition Fair



Over 30 parents, students, teachers and paraprofessionals from Houston County High School and Perry High School attended the Transition Fair at Warm Springs on October 3, 2019. We were able to tour the dorms and recreation center as well as visit former Houston County students who are attending the program. We learned about the different courses offered such as Certified Nursing Assistant, Horticulture, Forklift and Warehousing, and Certification Information Technology Programs. After the tour, students enjoyed treats and time to socialize with their peers.

