



STUDENT SERVICES

REPORT



Feeding Kids



Even though our daily lives currently look very different due to the COVID-19 crisis, Houston County School Nutrition continues to focus on what we always have: **FEEDING KIDS!** Instead of busy cafeterias, we have busy drive-thru sites at four schools and seven van routes that are servicing our students across the county. We operate these sites three days a week, providing enough food to cover seven days of breakfasts and lunches. Since March 17th, we have served over 247,000 meals which equates to a little over 20,000 meals a day to adorable customers arriving by vehicle, bike, and one even came in her little toy car!

The outpouring of support from our community has been amazing! Children have written thank you cards for staff, parents have sewn and donated masks to us, and the continuous kind words of encouragement have meant the world to our employees. Feeding our students is what we love to do, and we are so thankful to continue to offer warm smiles and safe meals to our community during these uncertain times.



Congratulations to all who were nominated by their peers to receive an award at our annual Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) reception. A special thank you to Northside High School for allowing us to use their beautiful facility. We enjoyed watching the superb talent from both dance teams at Bonaire Elementary

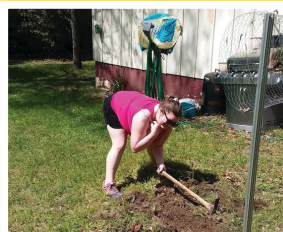
School, and we were blessed to hear one of our own high school students sing the National Anthem! We truly have the best of the best in Houston County where "All means All." Thank you to everyone who helped provide love and support to our Exceptional learners and staff who go above and beyond daily.



Transition
Academy
THE FUTURE STARTS NOW.

Students at the Transition Academy have been busy working on their skills at home. They have been interacting with Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Murphy since their first day out of school and are looking forward to getting started with Google Classroom. We are so proud of the excitement they have shown for remaining active learners!

 **HOUSTON COUNTY**
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS



SHARKS Win State!



On March 6th the SHARKS rolled into the Macon Centreplex to defend their basketball state championship title. Early on it seemed the SHARKS' reign was coming to an end, as the Henry County Hurricanes led by 11 at the half. During the halftime break, the SHARKS regrouped and defense stepped up to hold the Hurricanes. The offense racked up the points! Team captains, O'lando Hicks and Jacob Stevens, led the way, as the SHARKS chipped away at the 'Canes lead. As the clock ticked down, Dylan Thompson hit a wide open Jaquavious West under the goal. Jaquavious scored to send the Sharks into overtime. During overtime, the SHARKS defense held the 'Canes to one point. Dylan and Jaquavious played big roles. Jaquavious committed a game saving foul, putting them ahead by one. The SHARKS called a quick timeout. Knowing that the Hurricanes were going to focus on O'lando and Jacob, the inbound play was going to be key. Annabelle Putman set two picks to get teammate Dylan Thompson for a game winning layup!!!



April is national OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY month!

April is the month we recognize our Occupational Therapists and their Certified Therapy Assistants. Even during this digital learning opportunity, the Occupational Therapists are still serving students through creative means. Our therapists have developed a menu of activities for students to engage with their families. The staff will make weekly contact with



each family they serve to provide virtual support and resources. Currently, there are 9 therapists: April Wells (COTA/L), Lynn Whittle (COTA/L), Keshia Ragin (COTA/L), Heather Maddox (COTA/L), Lauren Hatcher (COTA/L), Danetta Hardy (MS OTR/L), Amy Valazquez (MS OTR/L), Ansley Bailey (MS OTR/L) and Leigh Ann Allen (MS OTR/L).



eResources for Special Education



The Student Services Department has worked diligently to anticipate and meet the needs of our students with disabilities. The department has posted eResources online for parents to engage students in the areas of academics, social/emotional, speech, occupational and physical therapy.

Student Services continues to provide on-going support for teachers by preparing numerous instructional resources that include weekly academic and social lesson plans for students with significant cognitive disabilities, and instructional resources for students with disabilities accessing the general education curriculum.

SOCIAL WORKERS *generations* STRONG



March was Social Worker Appreciation Month. The theme for this year's celebration was "Social Workers: Generation Strong." Houston County celebrated School Social worker week March 2-6. Social Workers collaborate with families to help meet their basic needs and reduce barriers that keep students from success in school. During this time of uncertainty, our staff continues to help families navigate the resources available to them. Through a partnership with Houston County Family Connections, Social Workers are able to provide families with updated information on food pantries, medical services, digital learning assistance, and unemployment resources. The goal is to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to participate fully in digital learning and feel socially and emotionally secure.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Our teacher in the spotlight this month is Emily Hall. Emily is an interrelated teacher at Feagin Mill Middle School. A graduate of Houston County High, she is proud to represent the Houston County School System. She attended the University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education. Prior to teaching, she worked at a psychiatrist's office with pediatric and adolescent patients. This experience exposed her to the various challenges young people face and inspired her to make a meaningful impact in their lives. She then realized her calling was to provide young people with access to educational success. Seeing her students succeed, whether it is a small moment or a huge accomplishment, propels her to continue to learn and grow as a teacher. She has high expectations for herself and her students. Thank you Mrs. Hall for providing a safe, engaging, and encouraging learning environment!



COLLEGE SIGNING



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

The Sharks are very proud to announce that Jacob Stevens, Houston County High Senior, signed his Letter of Intent to continue his basketball career. Jacob will attend Southwest Minnesota State University in the fall.





STUDENT SERVICES DIGITAL LEARNING SUPPORT PLAN

- **Special Education Instruction:** Special Education teachers have received training in i-Ready and Google Classroom. Special Education teachers will be working in conjunction with host teachers to be able to continue co-teaching and collaborating in the digital learning environment. Teachers will reach out to each family to discuss delivery of special education services and supports. They will prepare lessons for students to be shared electronically and/or as packets.
- **IEP meetings:** IEP meetings may be held in a virtual or conference call format. Beginning April 6th, special education teachers will begin contacting parents to reschedule and schedule meetings. Any late IEPs will be scheduled within a reasonable period of time, to be held in a manner that is accessible for parents.
- **Documentation:** The IDEA COVID-19 Digital Learning Service Log is available in PowerSchool. All contact with students and parents will be posted to this document.
- **Assistive Technology:** Students with disabilities requiring access to assistive technology devices per their IEP will receive them. Student services will be working in conjunction with The Technology Department to obtain and provide the proper specialized technology.
- **Speech and Language:** SLPs will develop a menu of activities for families to engage their children in language and articulation activities. These will be posted under the eResources tab for Special Education on our district's webpage at <https://www.hcbe.net/spederesource> . SLPs will make weekly contact with each family they serve to provide virtual support and resources.
- **OT/PT:** Our therapists have developed a menu of activities for students to engage with their families. OT/PT staff will make weekly contact with each family they serve to provide virtual support and resources.
- **BIT (Behavior Intervention Team):** The BIT will continue to support teachers and students in the digital classroom. Strategies for teachers will be posted to SharePoint and strategies for parents will be posted to eResources. They will also continue to conduct social skills groups through Zoom or other means.
- **Educational Interpreters for the Deaf:** General and Special Education teachers serving our DHH students who receive sign-language interpreting services will need to add

interpreters to their Google Classroom and Zoom Meetings in which students participate.

- **WIN virtual:** Special Education Teachers will continue to provide support to students enrolled in this learning environment.
- **Hospital Homebound/Homebased teachers:** Teachers serving students through Hospital Homebound or Homebased models will continue to support these students. Students will also access their classroom assignments through digital learning and/or alternate means. Hospital Homebound/Homebased teachers will support these students for 1 hour (more if needed as determined by the HHB or IEP committee) per week.
- **Social Workers:** School Social Workers will continue to help students, parents and school staff identify needs that interfere with learning and provide links to community resources. In the event a family needs additional support not provided by our system, the social work staff will connect them with numerous other community resources. Social workers can be reached through school guidance counselors or by contacting Dr. Alicia Campbell.
- **PBIS:** Strategies for teachers will be posted to SharePoint to support positive behavior in the digital learning environment. PBIS lesson plans will be created to provide guidance for teachers regarding setting expectations while delivering academic content. Please contact Jason Pinkney if you have any questions or concerns.
- **Counselors:** Counselors will continue to be available for staff and student needs. They will coordinate these needs with social workers as appropriate through SWARM. Counselors will make contact with students they know to need their support. APEX services will continue during this time of digital learning.
- **Health Related Services** School Nurses will support students, parents, and teachers by providing resources recommended by the Centers for Disease Control related to COVID-19, hygiene, and the prevention of the spread of germs. They will be available to schools as a medical resource. Nurses will also participate in virtual meetings and phone conferences for IEP, 504, and Child Find meetings.
- **School Nutrition Program:** The Houston County School Nutrition Program plans to continue offering meals at no charge for children during Digital Learning. As of Monday, March 30, School Nutrition will offer meals three days per week; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Two serving methods will be offered. Meals will continue to be available at four schools (Tucker Elem, Matt Arthur Elem, Huntington Middle, and Northside High) between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the car rider or bus lane. District vans will continue to deliver meals to select neighborhoods three days per week. On Monday and Wednesday, each child will receive two breakfasts and two lunches. On Friday, each child will receive three breakfasts and three lunches.