



The Houston County School Nutrition Program is offering breakfast and lunch for all students including those enrolled in Houston Virtual distance learning. Houston Virtual students may pick up meals at any of the District's eight middle schools on Wednesdays between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. For safety and convenience, parents may pick up meals for the entire week using the bus lane.

To pick up meals, parents/guardians are asked to write the student's name, lunch number and school on a piece of paper and place it in the passenger window. Upon enrollment

verification, each student will receive 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches for the week.

Houston Virtual students whose home schools are Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools will receive meals at no charge. The following 19 schools qualify as CEP schools: C.B. Watson Primary, Centerville Elementary, Huntington Middle, Lindsey Elementary, Miller Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Northside Elementary, Northside Middle, Parkwood Elementary, Pearl Stephens Elementary, Russell Elementary, Shirley Hills Elementary, Thomson Middle, Tucker Elementary, Warner Robins Middle, Warner Robins High, Westside Elementary and WIN Academy.

Students who attend non-CEP schools will be charged for meals based on the student's eligibility. Those who are approved for free meals will receive the meals at no charge. Students who are approved for reduced meals will receive the meals for \$0.30 per breakfast and \$0.40 per lunch. All other students will be charged the paid meal price depending on their grade level.

The first date of meal service for virtual learners was Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Over the past three Wednesdays, more than 26,000 meals have been provided to virtual students. School nutrition is excited to offer this opportunity to families!





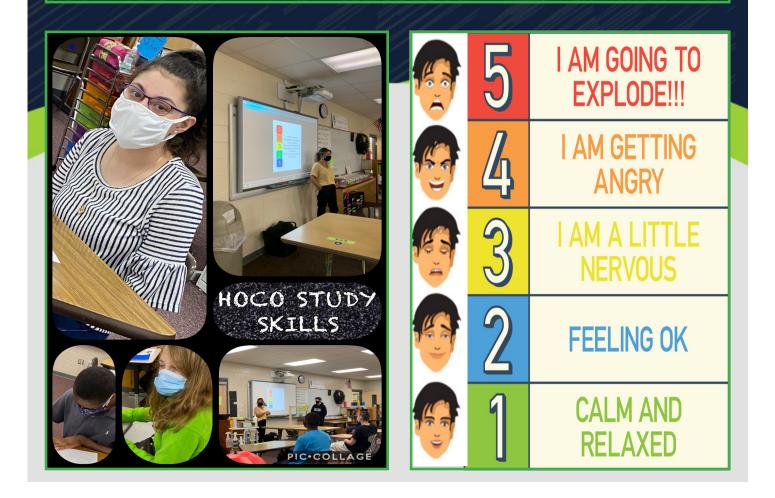




Students at the Transition Academy are busy learning occupational and daily living skills. Traditionally, our students spend their day working in the community at various local businesses. With the current restrictions on CBI trips due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our teachers have found creative ways to teach the same skills within our building. Students are stocking, sorting and organizing the resource room with donations for families in need, much like they were doing at the ABBA house and RENEW. They continue to cook and freeze casseroles and desserts by request. The Kiwanis club has recruited our students to make snacks for their upcoming face to face meetings. Houston County Family Connection has requested that our students assist with preparing community resiliency bags by filling them with flyers, crayons and therapy putty. Our students are learning to paint furniture and steam/iron clothes. There are plans for the students to participate in two community service projects each semester.

THE INCREDIBLE 5-POINT SCALE

Students in Mrs. Gay's class at Houston County High School are learning the 5-Point Scale for managing frustrations. The 5-Point Scale is a cognitive behavior intervention tool used to assist students in recognizing different levels of stress and anxiety they may be feeling. It teaches social information and emotional regulation skills by replacing abstract concepts and feelings with visual and personal reminders. Once a behavior is identified, it is analyzed and broken into smaller parts. Each part is then assigned a color and a number ranging from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest stress or anxiety level. These steps help an individual begin to understand and better manage their emotions.



2020-21 SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER INDUCTION

he Student Services Department is excited to continue its Special Education Teacher Induction Program for the 2020-21 school year. The program is designed to provide high-quality Professional Learning that enables teachers to better serve students with disabilities in Houston County. Thirty-six Special Education teachers will meet monthly to receive professional development on topics that include:

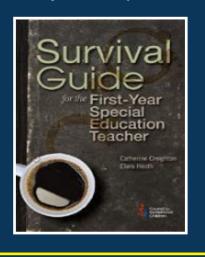
- Classroom Management,
- Developing Measurable IEP Goals,
- Youth Mental Health,
- High Leverage Practices,
- Co-Teaching,
- Understanding the Re-evaluation Process and Psychological Assessments,

Assistive Technology Solutions,

- Speech and Related Services,
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

Teachers will access assignments and resources via Google Classroom and receive follow-up support from their Program Specialists.





FEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Our special education teachers have been hard at work creating individualized online learning environments,



as well as interactive classrooms to supplement their online instruction for distance learners. In the interactive classrooms, teachers can embed videos of their lessons as a supplement to Zoom instruction. This is a wonderful benefit for students who may need to hear the lesson more than once to retain the information. Parents are also able to learn along with their child and help support new concepts.

Ms. Goodroe, a teacher at Kings Chapel Elementary, says her students are really enjoying the individualized virtual instruction. She states the transition from providing in person reading instruction to virtual instruction has been seamless.

Ms. Steverson, from Langston Road Elementary, appreciates the fact that students can view her videos, anchor charts, and graphic organizers anytime they want with the touch of a button. With easy access to lessons, assignments, and resource materials, students are able to stay organized and focused on learning.

David Perdue Primary teacher, Ms. Hampton, loves connecting with her students virtually. She shares, "I have found that virtual learning allows flexibility and creativity which helps with student engagement and achievement. Learning has become more hands-on in a completely new way with interactive virtual lessons. I have enjoyed specifically creating virtual phonics instruction to assist my students in a fun way. Virtual learning has not only made learning accessible to my students, but has also really helped me, my paraprofessional, and students all develop better technology skills that are so essential in our lives."

Ms. Cindy Hamilton, intervention teacher, has also noticed that students are receptive to interventions through online instruction. One additional benefit to distance learning is access to assistive technology. In the virtual setting, using assistive technology is the norm and kids are becoming proficient with regular use of the technology they require. We are looking forward to a successful new school year for all of our students.





Over the summer, Mrs. Gidget Hurlbert, an interrelated teacher at Miller Elementary School, applied for the Civitan grant offered by the local Houston County Civitan Club. Her grant proposal focused on using technology in the classroom. Mrs. Hulbert's goal was for her students to effectively use Google Classroom to access the curriculum and interact with technology in everyday classroom activities. Mrs. Hulbert's proposal was accepted by the Civitan club earning her a \$250 grant. With the grant, she plans to purchase Kindle Fire readers for her students. Mrs. Hulbert believes that these devices will allow her students to access digital learning resources to further engage in and enhance their learning environment.

Google Classroom

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