

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT



Summer Feeding Program



The Houston County School Nutrition Program (SNP) will continue to offer meals free of charge this summer to children ages 18 and under. Meals will be offered through pickup at one of six schools or on mobile routes for specific neighborhoods. Community organizations may also register for summer meals. Children do not need to be enrolled in the Houston County School District to receive meals.

For pick up, meal packs will be offered on Wednesdays from June 2 - July 28, 2021. Parents may drive through one of six schools each Wednesday between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. to pick up meal packs in the car rider or bus lane. Children do not need to be present. Meal packs will be offered at the following schools:

- * Feagin Mill Middle School – 1200 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins;
- * Huntington Middle School – 206 Wellborn Road, Warner Robins;
- * Matt Arthur Elementary School – 2500 Hwy 127, Kathleen;
- * Northside High School – 926 Green Street, Warner Robins;
- * Perry High School – 1307 North Avenue, Perry; and
- * Thomson Middle School – 301 Thomson Street, Centerville.



Meals will also be distributed by vans traveling routes through Houston County neighborhoods. The routes will be similar to past years. Van routes will be posted to the SNP webpage by the end of May.

Meals will also be available for community youth programs, such as athletic practices, Bible schools, clubs, etc., operating between June 1 and July 29. Any group wishing to participate in the SNP summer feeding program must register with School Nutrition three weeks prior to the start of their program. All sites are able to serve any child 18 years of age or younger.

For more information, please contact Sybrennia James, Summer Feeding Coordinator, at Sybrennia.James@hcbe.net or 478-210-8090. The Houston County School District is an equal opportunity provider.



The Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) has money set aside in the form of a “High Cost Grant”. Local Education Agencies have the opportunity to apply for additional funding through this grant for students meeting the criteria as a “High Needs Child”. A student that fits this definition is one that requires special education services and related services that are more intense, more frequent and more diverse than the needs typically demonstrated by students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). This application process is intense and requires substantial documentation. The Special Education department is pleased that for the fourth year in a row, the GADOE has approved all five of the Houston County grant applications submitted. This year, the grants totaled \$230,000. These funds will help support the costs of implementing intense, highly individualized, instructional programs that are essential for ensuring success for identified students.



Since 1972, National School Nurse Day has been set aside to acknowledge school nurses. This year, Houston County Schools will celebrate our school nurses on May 12th. School nurses serve as a support for students. They ensure that students are ready for learning by managing complex chronic conditions, addressing mental health issues, leveling the field on health disparities, promoting healthy behaviors, and handling medical emergencies. This year our nurses were instrumental in helping to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. They supported school administrators in the implementation of safety measures, provided information to parents and community members, as well as assisted in vaccinating students and school personnel.

It is an honor to recognize the contributions to student health that school nurses make every day! Houston County currently employs 8 school nurses: Shanelle Bobo, RN, Jennifer Lawrence, RN, Sonovia Ling, LPN, Brenda Marshall, RN, Heather Roland, LPN, Cathy Sillence, RN, Suzanne Simpson, RN, and Liz Tosi, LPN. Dana Rollins, RN, MSN serves as the Coordinator for Health Related Services. Thanks to our school nurses for the hard work and dedication to the students and schools of Houston County.

COVID-19 Vaccine Offered to Students in Partnership with Houston Healthcare

In a continued effort to vaccinate as many eligible individuals as possible, the Houston County School District partnered with Houston Healthcare to provide vaccines to students 16 years old or older. Offering vaccines on site removes barriers that parents may face when attempting to schedule immunizations for their students. We are pleased with the response to the offering of the vaccine at the students' educational location. School-based clinics administered the first dose in the vaccination series between April 22nd and April 28th. A total of 332 vaccinations were administered. They were also provided information regarding the Pfizer vaccine with a contact number for Houston Healthcare. Second doses of the vaccine will be administered at the high schools May 13th through May 19th. These students will be considered fully vaccinated 14 days from their last dose. All students are monitored for any adverse side effects prior to release back to class or home. Pictured below are students completing their 15 minutes of observation post vaccine injection. Also pictured is the staff from Houston Healthcare and the Houston County school nurses.



Immunization Updates

Sixteen year olds entering the 11th grade have to meet new immunization requirements prior to next school year. Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord, and can cause shock, coma and death within hours of the first symptoms.

Parents will be notified of this new enrollment requirement before school ends in May. This will allow students to be vaccinated over the summer at their healthcare provider's office. Parents of students without health insurance or those whose health plan does not cover this vaccine, may call their local health department and ask about getting no or low cost vaccine.

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During the April New Special Education Teacher Induction training, twenty-one teachers received professional learning on Speech-Language Services and Related Services including Health Related Services, Occupational and Physical Therapy Services, and Special Transportation.

Dana Rollins, Coordinator of Student Services, presented on the health related services available to students within Houston County Schools. She informed the participants about Audiology and Nursing Services provided by the school district.

Leigh-Ann Allen, Occupational Therapist, and Patti Carriker, Physical Therapist, discussed Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) as related services provided to assist a student in accessing his/her educational program. The student must have a recognized disability or disorder affecting his/her educational performance, which can include developmental, academic and functional skills. A student may receive OT and/or PT as a related service under special education as directed by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or as part of a Section 504 Plan. Teachers also learned about the referral process for OT or PT services.

Erin Burks, Speech Pathologist, presented on the role of Speech-Language Pathologists in the school system and the four major areas covered by SLPs: articulation, language, voice, and fluency. She also reviewed developmental norms for speech sound development, and provided information about the Speech-Language referral and eligibility process.

Bonnie Brown, Coordinator of Student Services, discussed special transportation. This service is provided to ensure that children with disabilities receive all of the programming they are due per the IEP. Examples of when a student may need special transportation were provided along with how services are to be documented in the IEP. Teachers also learned about the Individual Transportation Plan (ITP) which is developed to document transportation needs within the IEP.



Mrs. Monique Spurgeon, counselor at Northside Middle School, is truly one of a kind. Mrs. Spurgeon is selfless, going above and beyond for not only the students at NMS, but also for her coworkers. In addition to supporting the students at NMS with their academic requirements, Mrs. Spurgeon also finds ways to support the students' social needs and emotional development. Mrs. Spurgeon spends her time supporting students and families through the Holiday Star Christmas Program. This program provides school supplies and other resources for families in need. Mrs. Spurgeon is known as a trusted adult for many students who regularly visit her office. She can also be found celebrating and recognizing each staff member at NMS for their birthdays and special occasions. She coordinates Teacher Appreciation week at her school. She has not missed a single day for the entire 2020-2021 school year. We are thankful for Monique Spurgeon and all that she does for the students and staff at Northside Middle School.



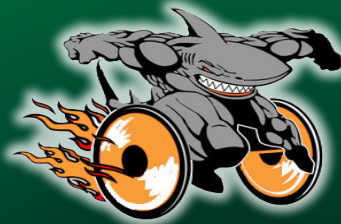
State FFA Degree Recipient

Northside High School student, Gregory Bailes, received the State FFA Degree and was recognized at the 93rd State FFA Convention in April. The State FFA Degree is the highest degree that the Georgia FFA Association can bestow upon its members. In order to receive the State FFA Degree, members must meet several requirements outlined by the National FFA Organization. Students must have been enrolled in an agricultural education course and have been an active FFA member for at least two years. Recipients must already hold their Chapter FFA Degree prior to receiving the State Degree, actively participate in the planning and implementation of the chapter's Program of Activities, and participate in at least five different activities above the chapter level. Gregory Bailes (left) is pictured with National FFA President, Doster Harper. Congratulations to Gregory on this prestigious achievement.



SHARKS

Football



The Houston County Shark Varsity Football team's year definitely did not end like they wanted. With 1:40 seconds on the clock in the semi-final playoff game, the Sharks offense rallied one of their best offensive possessions of the day. The Sharks marched down the court, led by Isiah Costillo and Leeza Brown, scoring a touchdown and 2 point conversion to take the 4 point lead over the Henry Hurricanes. The Sharks defense, led by Langley Yoh's 4 sacks and Dalton Crosby's 5 pass disruptions, was holding strong. However, with half a second left on the clock the Henry County Hurricanes made one last goal line push, scoring on a quarterback sneak to pull, ahead by 2 at the horn. The JV Sharks faced off against the Muscogee Lions Saturday, May 1, at Bonaire Middle School. The JV Sharks fought hard but fell short in the championship game. Both teams showed great improvement during the year. There is no doubt next year will be an awesome year.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

This month we want to shine a light on Mr. Brooks Holder. He is known for his ability to build relationships with his students at Bonaire Middle School. He has been in education for a total of eleven years, working as a paraprofessional for five years and as a teacher for the past six years. Originally from Dublin, he fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an engineer. Graduating from Southern Polytechnic State University in 2005, his first career was as an Industrial Engineer. While working as an engineer, his pastor suggested he begin tutoring students in an after school program. This is where he found his true calling. Mr. Holder shared,

“The one thing I love about education is being able to really make a difference. When you are teaching a student and you see the *aha moment*, it is the best feeling in the world to know you made a difference for that student. The most challenging part about teaching is building relationships with students because during this chapter of their lives it is all about fitting in or becoming *cool* kids. For me, I build relationships with my students through telling them about the personal side of my life because I also have a disability. In 2003, I had major brain surgery which required me to reteach myself how to do the simple things people take for granted. I inform them of my daily struggles of my physical disability and limitations and make it relate to their personal life. Once the students know my struggle, they are more willing to share information about themselves and they are open to conversations. My mentor, the late Adrienne Harris, always told me that every student with a disability has a story to tell, and if you give them your heart they will work to the moon and back for you.”

Mr. Holder is a father of four; three boys and a girl. He loves hunting, fishing, collecting shoes, and being a dad. Thank you Mr. Holder for the difference you are making and the life changing relationships you develop with your students!

