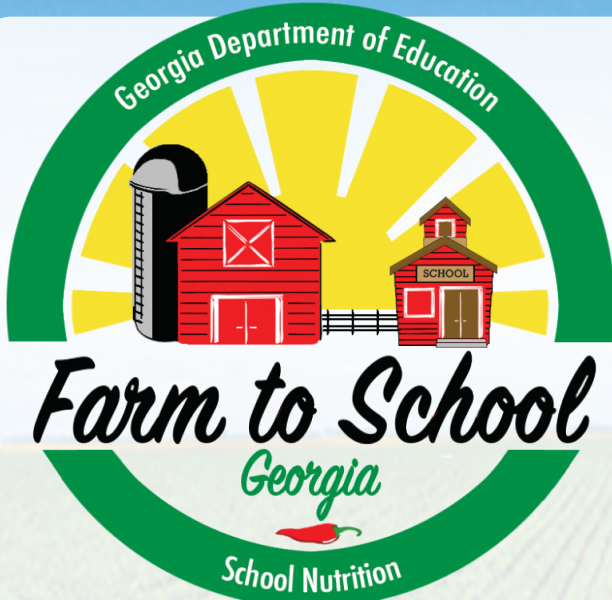




STUDENT SERVICES

REPORT



Georgia is a state rich in agriculture. We try to utilize our state's (and our neighboring states') local offerings on our menus every year. Even though we know that we are getting local products, often we don't truly know much about the farmers that worked hard to produce the products that we serve. This all changed, back in 2017, when we partnered with Dan Perdue of Perdue Blackberry Farms located right here in Perry, Georgia. Perdue Farms individually quick-freezes their berries at the peak of ripeness, so that we are able to serve them throughout the school year in all of our schools. The berries are especially delicious in our Berry Blast Smoothie and Cobbler! This year, along with continuing to offer Perdue Blackberries, we have also been able to serve two other items from small, family owned, local farms. The first



was Fuyu Persimmons from Glennville, Georgia. Laura Wirht, part of the husband and wife farming team, delivered the persimmons to three of our elementary schools that participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Recently, we offered gourmet lettuce from Stonecreek Hydroponics located near Lake Hartwell, Georgia. Their lettuce is grown in hydroponic towers. This means the lettuce never touches dirt or pesticides, making it exceptionally safe and healthy to eat. All of our high schools received an assorted case filled with different and unique varieties. We are proud to support our local farmers and Georgia Grown community! Hopefully next year, we will be able to build even more relationships with the hardworking farmers in our state.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



This month we spotlight a teacher whose energy and enthusiasm for learning is contagious! Michi Dunmon began teaching Interrelated at Lake Joy Primary in 2008. She earned a Master's degree in Specific Learning Disabilities from the University of West Florida. She earned her Education Specialist's in Curriculum and Instruction from Piedmont College. Mrs. Dunmon enjoys teaching specialized strategies in reading, writing, and math to her students with various needs. Most recently, Mrs. Dunmon participated in our county-sponsored Orton-Gillingham training. This multi-sensory reading approach has already increased student engagement. Mrs. Dunmon stated, "I enjoy watching the children's eyes light up when they see their progress. They are creating bar graphs of how many sight words they have learned. The students are motivated and want to know when they can do another 'word check'. It's inspiring to see them want to learn more and more. Reading levels are improving." Mrs. Dunmon resides in Bonaire with her husband, Bill. She loves the outdoors, walking on the beach, hiking in the North Ga. Mountains, kayaking, and running in local 5K and 10K races. She has completed five half-marathons.

#RUN4LOVE



Houston County Special Olympics will be hosting a "Run for Love" 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Bonaire Elementary. The race is a kid-friendly event, catering to runners and walkers in our community while raising funds to enhance the experiences of our athletes. The proceeds from this event will go towards athletic supplies within our program at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Proceeds will also help send our Special Olympics teams to state games. For registration details, contact mollie.jones@hcbe.net or brandie.mcneal@hcbe.net.

STW PHYSICAL EDUCATION Conference



The Houston County Sharks were represented at the annual Share the Wealth Physical Education Conference on Jekyll Island. Coaches Christy Jones, Anna Henry and Stephen Roberson presented to coaches and PE teachers from around the Southeast. The attendees were instructed in the qualifications, rules, and different games



in which the Sharks participate. Those attendees were then able to try out the different chairs and experience what the adapted sports program is all about. The coaches received a lot of positive feedback during the event and are looking forward to future presentations showcasing all that the Houston County Sharks program has to offer.



One hundred and twenty students from Houston County schools participated in Georgia's Winter State Special Olympics held January 10th -12th in Cobb County. Students from seven local schools competed in basketball and bowling. These students won fifteen awards, including five gold medals, seven silver medals and three bronze medals. Congratulations to participating students who upheld the Special Olympic athlete oath - "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



10TH ANNUAL

SHARKS

Fundraiser

GAME

FEBRUARY 12TH



VS



6:30PM @ HOUSTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL/ TICKETS \$5 @ DOOR



On January 16th and 17th, twenty-seven schools with 590 athletes participated in the local Winter Special Olympics at Veterans High School. The elementary schools started things off on Thursday the 16th with basketball skills in Level A, Individual Skills, and Team Skills. On Friday, the middle and high schools continued the fun on with Level A, Individual Skills, Team Skills, and 5-on-5 basketball games. Special guests in attendance were Elsa and Anna from the movie Frozen. The characters performed “Into the Unknown” from Frozen 2, played a game of Freeze Dance, and posed for pictures. In addition to these headliners, Board Members and Central Office staff were present to cheer on the athletes as well as school partner clubs. A great time was had by all and lots of ribbons were won. A special thanks to Veterans High School for hosting this wonderful event!

PARENT INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS

on special education topics

*February
20th*

Topic: "Guardianship & Special Needs Trust" presented by local attorney

Time: 6PM-8PM

Location: CB Watson Elementary School

*February
26th &
27th*

Topic: "NOW/COMP Medicaid Waivers"

Time: 10AM-12PM (2/26) & 6PM-8PM (2/27)

Location: Houston County Transition Academy

*March
10th*

Topic: "How to Implement Behaviors @ Home"

Time: 9AM-11AM & 6PM-8PM

Location: Thomson Middle School

*March
23rd*

Topic: "Getting It Together Forever" Organization Tips for IEP Paperwork

****Please RSVP due to limited space****

Time: 9AM-11AM & 6PM-8PM

Location: HCBOE Perry Annex Auditorium

*April
16th*

Topic: "ESY-Extended School Year. What are the requirements?"

Time: 9AM-11AM & 6PM-8PM

Location: Houston County High School

*May
4th*

Topic: "What Now? What to Do with Your Child This Summer"

Community & Web-based Resources

Time: 9AM-11AM & 6PM-8PM

Location: Perry Middle School

**Please contact Marina Jones, Parent Mentor, with any questions @
(478)218-4618 Ext. 27822 or marina.jones@hcbe.net**