



Influenza is a contagious disease caused by a virus that can lead to serious health conditions like pneumonia or bacterial infections. When children are in a group with other children, they are more likely to get infectious diseases like the flu. Each year, many children are hospitalized with flu. Here are some ways we can work together to promote health and reduce illness.

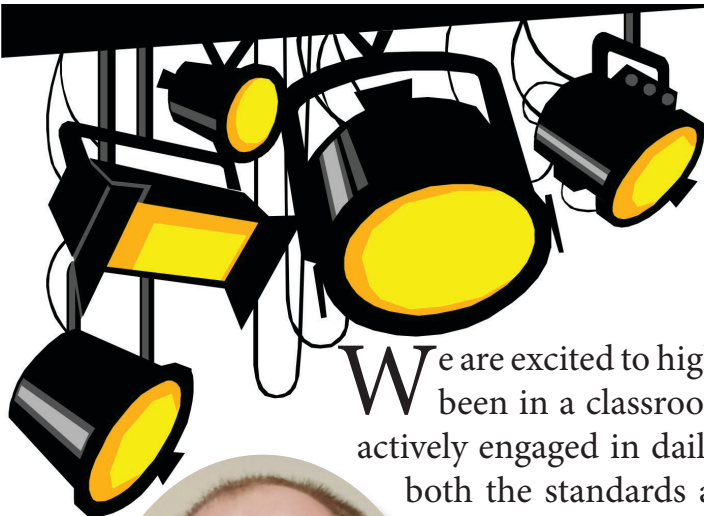
- Get vaccinated for seasonal influenza every year. A vaccine is the best way to protect against getting the flu. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all people six months and older receive a flu vaccine each year.
- Use good hygiene! Wash your hands of-

ten with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. It's also important to cover your own mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands. Also, avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as germs are spread this way.

The school nurses assisted with the administration of 3629 Flu Vaccine injections to the students of Houston County. Houston County Schools' partnered with the County Health Department to provide the vaccines for students at no cost to the guardians. In addition, over 600 employees participated in the vaccine campaign. Together we are making the schools of Houston County healthier!



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



We are excited to highlight Mr. Tony Whitten this month! Have you ever been in a classroom where learning is fun and you can see students actively engaged in daily instruction? Have you seen a teacher prioritize both the standards and the social-emotional needs of their students? We have! Let me introduce you to Mr. Whitten.

Mr. Whitten teaches students with Mild Intellectual Disabilities at Perry High School. He has an Associate of Arts degree, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching focusing in special education. His previous experience includes working in customer service and being a classroom paraprofessional. Currently, he resides in the Middle Georgia area with his wife, Sara, and their beautiful daughter, Abigail. An interesting fact about Mr. Whitten is that he is an Eagle Scout.

When asked why he became a teacher, Mr. Whitten replied, "I was inspired by my mother, who taught Special Education and has been in a wheel chair for 32 years." He also stated, "I also believe that the Lord wants me to encourage others to become someone better than who they were yesterday." Mr. Whitten challenges his students to grow as productive citizens. He expects his students to come to class prepared to learn not only academics, but life skills. He is a phenomenal teacher!



Stephanie Justen was awarded the Flint Energies Bright Ideas grant for the second year in a row. The \$1000 grant will allow her and Mrs. Kedra Gay to conduct cooking lessons during their study skills classes. Miss Justen is greatly appreciative of Flint Energies for their support.



ALL IN, ALL WIN!

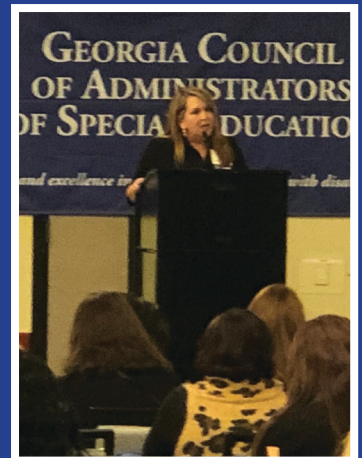


A team from Houston County recently presented at the Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education Conference in Savannah. Attendees learned how our various departments collaborate to improve opportunities and outcomes for student with disabilities. The team shared how our efforts have led to successful video campaigns, teacher recruitment, credit recovery opportunities, mental health access, transition services, improved achievement and more!



G-CASE

Dr. Zabrina Cannady was installed as the President of the Georgia Council for Administrators of Special Education at the annual fall conference in Savannah. "One Team, One Dream" was the theme of the conference which was planned by Dr. Cannady. Special Education Administrators from all across Georgia were provided opportunities to visit with educational vendors and exhibits, participate in numerous breakout sessions designed to highlight exemplary practices, and get important legal updates from Harben, Hartley, and Hawkins. A silent auction was held to raise scholarship money for the training of aspiring directors of special education. Keynote speakers included Georgia's own Rennie Curran, a personal development coach, author, and former award-winning professional athlete who starred as a college football player at UGA; Holly Clark, an Education Strategist from San Diego who is a Google Certified Innovator, National Board Certified Teacher, and author; Aaron Sadoff, Wisconsin's State Superintendent of the Year, who is a trained presenter with the International Thought Leader Network ("The Happiness Advantage" and "Leading Positive Change"); and best-selling author and award-winning documentary filmmaker Kevin Hines, receiver of Mental Health America's highest honor for his efforts to improve the lives and attitudes toward people with mental illnesses. This year's conference was attended by more than 450 administrators.





Transition Academy

HOUSTON COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

THE FUTURE STARTS NOW.



The Georgia Department of Education Program Specialist for Transition Outcomes and Self-Determination Initiatives, Elise James, visited the Houston County School District in November. She was able to observe how our county uses best practices to ensure successful outcomes for individuals who are transitioning from the public school sector into his/her community. During the visit, Mrs. James shadowed Dr. Johnson, Transition Teacher for Houston County, at the Middle Georgia Transition Council meeting where interagency members from the Middle Georgia area collaborated to discuss the needs of the community and local school districts.

Mrs. James visited Mrs. Melanie Murphy's class at a jobsite where the students were loading cartons of boxes to prepare a shipment for the

Samaritan Purse. During this tour, the students were able to exhibit post-vocational training and social integration skillsets. The students showcased their ability to follow directions, work together and think critically in the completion of job tasks.

In addition, Mrs. James toured the Transition Academy and had an opportunity to observe Mrs. Tami Atkinson's class while they were working in the Daily Living Center. Each student had specific job tasks to complete with minimal verbal prompting. The students exhibited self-determination and independent living skills. The most critical component of the tour was the diverse integration of activities that allowed the students to display their skills in self-regulation, problem solving, leadership and decision-making.





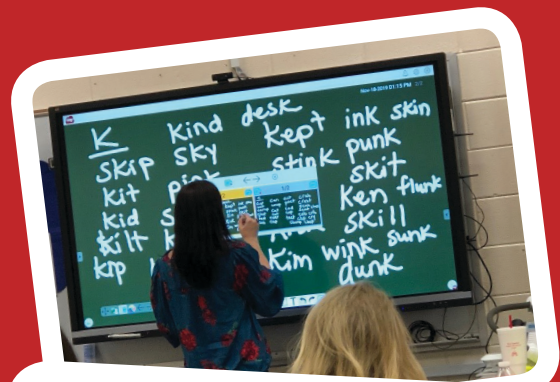
The Houston County School Nutrition Program is hosting a statewide food show in December. School Nutrition professionals across the state, including representatives from the Department of Education, students, and vendors will be participating. The focus of the food show will be innovative grab and go food items. Just like adults, our students love the convenience of being able to eat on the run! We are working to expand meal access to students in our county, and grab and go items will help with this initiative.

We are excited to announce that three Houston County Schools will be bringing their students to participate in the food show. We want to include students in the decision making process...and this is the perfect opportunity! Students will be able to interact with vendors, test food products, and rate the items. Items that receive the highest ratings may make it on our menus!

In addition, you are invited! We would love to host any central office personnel and board members! The event is planned for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the Perry Arts Center, 1121 Macon Road, Perry, Georgia, 31069. The event will open at 10:30 am.



ORTON GILLINGHAM TRAINING



Houston County is providing Orton Gillingham training for twenty selected special education teachers. Support staff and District administrators are also participating. Orton Gillingham is an evidenced-based, multi-sensory intervention targeting literacy. This intervention provides teachers with the necessary knowledge to differentiate for students who need more assistance with phonemic



and phonological awareness, sound-symbol knowledge, spelling and syllable rules. The four-day training is tailored to provide hands-on instruction. Teachers can take back the information they learn and apply it immediately to their classroom setting. The tools and strategies taught are engaging and versatile for diverse learners, particularly students with dyslexia.



2019-20 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
MASTER SCHEDULE

Times subject to
change, for information
call Robyn Hootselle at
(678) 283-4424

DATE	DIVISION	VISITING TEAM	@	HOME TEAM	TIME
*Sat., 1-11	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Gwinnett Heat	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
*Sat., 1-11	V	Clayton Eagles	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
*Sat., 1-11	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Gwinnett Heat	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
**Sat., 1-11	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	Houston Sharks	12:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
**Sat., 1-11	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	West Georgia Wolverines	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
**Sat., 1-11	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	Houston Sharks	4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-18	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Sharks	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-18	V/JV	Clayton Eagles	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-18	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Henry Hurricanes	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-25	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-25	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 1-25	V	Clayton Eagles	@	Henry Hurricanes	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-1	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Muscogee Lions	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-1	JV	Houston Jr. Sharks	@	Muscogee Lions	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-1	V	West Georgia Wolverines	@	Clayton Eagles	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
***Sat., 2-1	V	Houston Sharks	@	Gwinnett Heat	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
***Sat., 2-1	V	Houston Sharks	@	DeKalb Silver Streaks	3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
***Sat., 2-1	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	Gwinnett Heat	5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-8	V	DeKalb Silver Streaks	@	West Georgia Wolverines	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
****Sat., 2-15	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	West Georgia Wolverines	2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
****Sat., 2-15	V	Henry Hurricanes	@	Gwinnett Heat	4:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
****Sat., 2-15	V	Gwinnett Heat	@	West Georgia Wolverines	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-22	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-22	JV	Muscogee Lions	@	Houston Jr. Sharks	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Sat., 2-22	V	Houston Sharks	@	Clayton Eagles	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

* Game to be hosted by Gwinnett Heat at Hull Middle School, Duluth, GA

** Games to be hosted by Houston Sharks at Bonaire Middle School, Bonaire, GA

*** Games to be hosted by Gwinnett Heat at Hull Middle School, Duluth, GA

**** Games to be hosted by West GA Wolverines at RWSIR-CTR, Warm Springs, GA

AAASP/GHSA WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020

HOSTED BY MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOLS AT

AARON COHN MIDDLE SCHOOL, MIDLAND, GA

ONE JUNIOR VARSITY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

(TWO VARSITY SEMI-FINAL GAMES TO BE PLAYED LOCALLY

AND HOSTED BY 1st & 2nd PLACE IN STANDINGS)

VARSITY CHAMPIONSHIP: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 @ 2:00 PM

AT THE MACON COLISEUM, MACON, GA

