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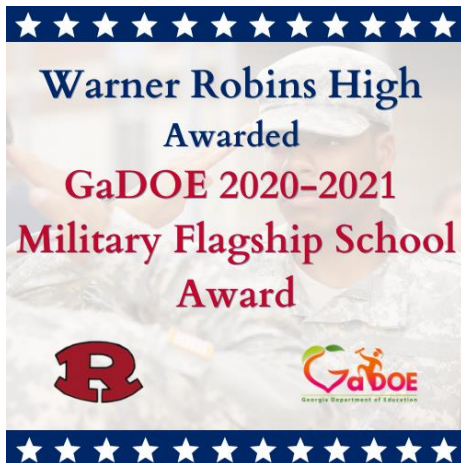
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Warner Robins High Wins Military Flagship School Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Warner Robins High School has been chosen by the Georgia Department of Education for a 2020-2021 Military Flagship School Award. This award recognizes schools that provide a supportive environment for military students and families by recognizing and accommodating their unique needs. Warner Robins High is one of only seven schools in the state to be recognized.

Chris McCook, Warner Robins High Principal, said, “We are humbled and honored to receive recognition as a Military Flagship School. Our military families endure a lot of stress with day-to-day activities, and we take great pride in providing a safe, secure and family atmosphere at our school. We want ALL of our families to feel that this is HOME. We want to thank the Georgia Department of Education for this honor and allowing us to support our military families.”

At Warner Robins High, a Military and Family Life Counselor provides solution-focused counseling support to military-connected students and their families. This counselor works closely with school counselors, teachers and other staff members to strengthen the support and understanding needed during transitions, deployments and military life in general. The school also employs two Family Engagement Coordinators, both of whom are military spouses and have firsthand understanding of military families. These coordinators engage families through social media, newsletters, workshops and events. The school also hosts an annual Military Family Appreciation Night at a football game. In addition, the attendance policy addresses deployment and other events of military life – to include allowing excused absences to visit a military parent or guardian in a medical facility or to attend a ceremony for the military member, such as promotion, graduation or retirement. All students at Warner Robins High have access to numerous Advanced Placement courses, Career Academy courses, dual enrollment and an Air Force JROTC program.

MORE

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Each 2020-2021 winner will receive a special visit (as COVID-19 protocols and guidelines allow) from Superintendent Richard Woods and other officials. The schools will also receive a banner to display, announcing their status as a Military Flagship School.

Renee Daughtry, Robins AFB School Liaison, commented, "Congratulations on being selected for this award! What an honor to receive the Military Flagship School Award! This award is *extremely* competitive, with only seven schools from across Georgia earning this recognition. I am not at all surprised that Warner Robins High was selected with all of the great support this school provides our military children. The faculty and staff go above and beyond in support of our military students and families."

Superintendent Woods said, "It's my goal that Georgia will have the most military-friendly schools in the nation, addressing and accommodating the needs of the military families who make sacrifices on our behalf. As someone who grew up in a military family myself, it is a joy to honor these seven schools for going above and beyond to serve and support military children."

"As a child of a naval officer who has moved 15 times in my life, I know firsthand how important it is that a school welcome its military children," said Representative Dave Belton, Chairman of the Georgia House Study Committee on Military Affairs. "Perhaps even more important, the Pentagon has stated over and over again that quality schools are their number-one focus for new missions and the jobs that they provide. This program is absolutely vital, not only to the military children who we gratefully serve, but also to the economic health of Georgia. I applaud Superintendent Woods for his vision, and of course, our wonderful teachers."

Every selected school allows excused absences for students during a parent's overseas deployment departure or deployment arrival day; allows enrollment with military orders, military ID, or shot records for 90 days until the family finds a home or lease; and allows online or phone registration for incoming military members from overseas Department of Defense military bases.

All schools in the state were eligible to apply for the Military Flagship School Award. Members of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission evaluated the applications and the school was a unanimous choice for the award. Of 32 schools that applied, only seven received the award.

Warner Robins High is located at 401 South Davis Drive in Warner Robins. Principal McCook may be reached at 478-929-7877 or Chris.McCook@hcbe.net.

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