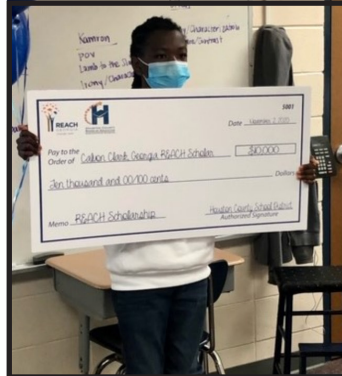


STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

2020-2021 REACH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Mahogany Rogers
FMMS



Calvon Clark
TMS



Taylee Julkes
WRMS



Roxie Singleton
PMS

The Houston County School System announced eight recipients of the Realizing Education Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship. The criteria for the scholarship is for eighth grade students who have grades of a "C" or higher in core courses, demonstrate and prove financial need, have excellent attendance, and have a behavior record that reflects no more than two disciplinary infractions. Each middle school submitted eighth grade student applications for the interview process. Seventeen students were interviewed for the REACH scholarship on September 15, 2020.

Through the REACH Scholarship process, each student will have an academic coach and a mentor. The coach will meet with the student monthly and the mentor will meet with them weekly. The coach will monitor progress and help make sure they stay on track. The 2020-2021 school year is the first year of a five year program. Upon high school graduation, the student will receive the \$10,000 scholarship to use toward college expenses.



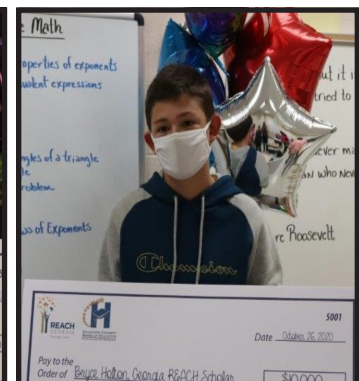
Aden Brown
HMS



Jackson Sawyer
BMS



Joshua Negron
MCMS



Bryce Holton
NMS

Pre-K Pedalers



Students are developing their academic, social, emotional, and gross motor skills every day in Mrs. Chestnut's Pre-K class at Lake Joy Primary School. In an effort to maximize student growth and improve gross motor skills, Ms. Chestnut and Ms. Talvan have introduced stationary bikes for "Learning to Pedal!" The students, parents, and teachers are all very excited about the new additions to the classroom!

Students in Ms. Averett's class, at Houston County High School, completed a unit on Feelings. Students learned that it is ok to get frustrated and focused on learning different ways to manage this feeling. One technique discussed was the use of calming bottles. Students filled an empty water bottle with 2/3 cups of warm water. They then added 2-3 ounces of glitter glue, 3-5 ounces of fine glitter, and 3-4 drops of food coloring. After all ingredients were added, the students shook the bottles to create a "glitter swirl". When students are upset, they can watch the glitter swirl while taking deep breaths in an effort to calm their feelings.



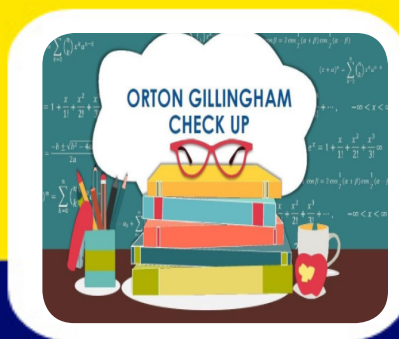
Professional Learning

Speech / Language Pathologist Webinar

Using Curriculum-Based Language Assessments to evaluate school-age students is one way for our Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) to create a comprehensive picture of a student's oral and written language needs. This also allows them the opportunity to pinpoint specific areas during intervention. During the October 9th professional learning day, SLPs participated in a webinar on how to perform curriculum-based language assessments. Participants explored how to use dynamic assessment to identify a student's specific strengths and weaknesses and answer four questions based on selected curricular tasks.

- (1) What does the task require?
- (2) What does the student currently do when attempting the task?
- (3) What does the student need to do differently to be more successful at the task?
- (4) What, if any, modifications to the task are needed to support the student's success?

The course demonstrated how to integrate formal and informal assessment data to understand students' individualized needs, plan interventions that can improve language/literacy skills, and foster better academic outcomes.



Orton Gillingham Check Up

In our October 9th follow up Orton Gillingham training, teachers discussed the five essential components of reading. These areas include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Delivering this instruction through a multi-sensory approach allows teachers to address the needs of our struggling readers, including those with dyslexia. Tools were shared that will benefit face to face or distance learners. Teachers also explored many great reading resources.

Digital Instruction

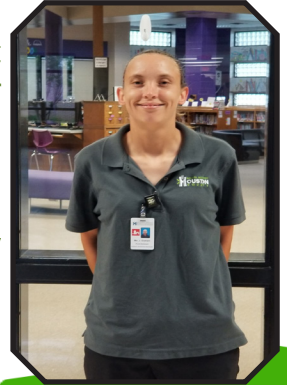
On October 20th, in response to the needs of many of our distance learning teachers, the Gifted and Special Education Departments jointly offered a virtual learning opportunity for our Distance Learning teachers of gifted and special education students. The participants had three virtual opportunities to discuss best practices in a digital learning environment. Multiple resources to support digital learning were provided to teachers along with feedback loops to offer ongoing support.

School Nutrition Department

Foodservice Heroes Award



We know we have some of the best employees around, but it is really great to have other people recognize it too! Houston County School Nutrition nominated our current employee and manager of the year for the Food Management's Foodservice Heroes Award. Both nominees were named to the list of 25 honorees. Wanda Keene and Jennifer Graham are outstanding all the time, but particularly throughout these past few months. Their positive attitudes and dedication to ensuring that all our students are fed is contagious. It is an honor to serve with our very own Houston County Heroes!



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Houston County School Nutrition's Pizza Pickup was selected as a Best Concept Winner in the Special Event Category for Food Management's Annual Best Concept Awards. Awards are given across seven categories and we are extremely proud of our team for developing this idea into a resounding success. With thousands of pizzas in inventory that would expire before school restarted in August, Houston County's School Nutrition program was looking for a way to both serve our community and avoid wasting food. Using social media and providing live updates on our Facebook page, three pizza nights at four of our Houston County middle schools were a hit. Families picked up whole pizzas, along with fresh veggies, fruits, and milk. We were fortunate to be able to partner with three local farms to provide fresh blueberries, strawberries, and peaches. This was a wonderful way to support our farmers and forge new partnerships we hope to continue in the future. We are extremely excited and honored to be recognized for these efforts.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



This month's teacher spotlight is Christina Gilbert, special education teacher at David Perdue Primary School. Mrs. Gilbert has been teaching for ten years. During that time, she has taught students ranging from 3 years old to 5th grade. She has served as a General Education Teacher, an Inclusion Teacher, Child Find Teacher, and is currently a Special Education Pre-K Teacher. Prior to finding her home in Houston County, she taught in Monroe County and Chatham County school districts. Mrs. Gilbert has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Special Education, a Master's Degree in Special Education, and Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership.

Mrs. Gilbert is married to her high school sweetheart, Phillip. They celebrated their 10-year anniversary in June. They have three children, ages 6, 3, and 1. In her free time, she enjoys reading, working out, and spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs. Gilbert is passionate about teaching. She works hard to accommodate and modify content to meet every learners' need. She goes above and beyond to support each student. We salute you, Mrs. Christina Gilbert, for everything you do for our students!



The Ellen Maltais Chapter (0878)



The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. The CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

The Ellen Maltais Chapter (0878) for the Council for Exceptional Children is the local chapter for Houston County. The group meets four- five times a year as a learning resource group for educators or community members working with individuals with special needs in Houston County.