



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

March 13th, 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

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Georgia Academy for
the Blind - GAB

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Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhkGSe98>



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

MARCH:



Mark Your Calendars

March 13: GAB Student Council Meeting at 1:00

**March 23 – 27: Paraprofessional & Residential
Advisor Appreciation Week**

March 27: Spring Program- Reynolds Auditorium

March 28-30: New York Trip, Mrs. Holloway

March 30 - April 3 : Spring Break Week – Holiday

April 9: Prom Night at GAB

April 13: Monday after Easter – Holiday

April 30 – May 3: Senior Trip

May 20: Graduation at GAB

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Please send your ideas, news and resources in your community to her. JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

BOX TOPS NEWS:

Thanks for all the hard work on collecting Box Tops. If you chose not to load the Box Tops App to scan your grocery receipt, I will be glad to scan the receipt, so just send it to me. Only bring receipts if you purchase something that has the Box Top Scan on the item. We have received some money from scanning the receipts so keep up the good job.

The contest for the most collected (CUT) Box Tops has begun. This contest will continue until May 8, 2020. I will collect any Box Tops on that date only, and the winner will be given a \$10.00 Wal-Mart gift card. Please have everyone you know collect Box Tops for you.

*****If you have any questions, please email me at slayson@doe.k12.ga.us

THE OLD BOX TOPS CLIPS



THE NEW BOX TOPS LABELS



Happy Birthday Kameron!



This year's prom will be an adventure in wonderland! We have finding symbols from Alice in Wonderland to use as decorations, including Mad Hatter style hats, checkerboards patters, giant mushrooms and chess pieces. Art students have been using their standards and regular class time to use to learn sculptural media and techniques and costume design, while the Friday Career Exploration: Set Design class has been painting large back drops. Buy your prom tickets now. It will be a night to remember!





Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Georgia Department of Education releases additional information regarding COVID-19 and public schools

More information: gadoe.org/coronavirus

MEDIA CONTACT: Meghan Frick, GaDOE Communications Office, 404-416-2286,
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**Please follow phone calls with a text message if possible.*

March 12, 2020 – As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Georgia rises, Governor Brian Kemp shared information regarding school closures during a 3 p.m. press conference. See below from Governor Kemp's office, and [click here for the full release and to view video of the press conference](#).

From Governor Kemp's Office ([click here](#)):

Local school systems have already implemented some limited closures in specific areas to deal with recent presumed positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19. During the press conference, Governor Kemp made it clear that day cares, schools, and school districts have the freedom to implement further closures as early as Friday, March 13, for the next two weeks.

"The Georgia Department of Education, University System of Georgia, Technical College System, and local school leaders have been invaluable partners to determine the best measures to protect students, teachers, and administrators," said Governor Kemp. "We believe in local control for all systems when it comes to making the best decisions for their communities. They have flexibility, and regardless of whether they stay open or decide to close, we will support their decision."

From the Georgia Department of Education

Governor Kemp, State School Superintendent Richard Woods, and staff members from the Governor's Office and Georgia Department of Education held a call with local school superintendents at 4 p.m. to address any questions.

The Georgia Department of Education will post any school closings as they are announced by local school districts to gadoe.org/coronavirus.

"I appreciate Governor Kemp's leadership in ensuring our school districts have the flexibility and support to make the best decision for their students," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "I encourage our local school leaders to make decisions with the safety of their students and staff in mind. My department will be here to support you every step of the way." y packets, cable access, virtual school/online classes, etc. GaDOE's office of Teaching and Learning has compiled virtual educational resources that are available at gadoe.org/coronavirus, and we continue to work with industry partners to develop additional resources.

Distance Learning

School districts across Georgia have been preparing for potential closures for several weeks. GaDOE advised districts to develop a plan to continue student learning should they need to close, using resources such as study packets, cable access, virtual school/online classes, etc. GaDOE's office of Teaching and Learning has compiled virtual educational resources that are available at gadoe.org/coronavirus, and we continue to work with industry partners to develop additional resources.

School Meals

We know food insecurity for students who rely on school meals is a major concern if extended school closures become necessary. GaDOE has sought approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for alternate meal service flexibility in the case of extended closures. This would allow schools to serve students meals through USDA approved meal service options, at approved sites within the community. USDA has committed to reviewing these waiver requests quickly in light of concerns about COVID-19. GaDOE will inform local districts and schools as soon as we receive USDA's response.

Assessment & Accountability

We know there are concerns regarding the state's assessment and accountability systems and the impact of COVID-19 and related closures on these policies. We are closely monitoring events and are developing contingency plans for both the assessment and accountability systems based on different scenarios. The priority must remain the safety and well-being of students and adults. We will stay in contact with the U.S. Department of Education and will make adjustments as needed to our policies to accommodate districts. The specific adjustments will depend on the course of events; however districts, schools, parents and students should know that we **will** make adjustments as necessary.

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"Educating Georgia's Future"