



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

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www.gabmacon.org



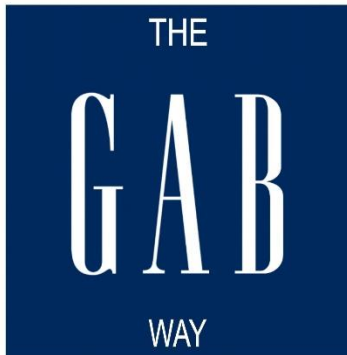
Georgia Academy for the
Blind - GAB

Follow our library:

@gab_library

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



Don't miss out on
important announcements
from our Parent Mentor.

Text your student's
name and your name to
478-262-3303 and you
will be subscribed to
Family Engagement @
GAB.

Mark Your Calendars

September 2: Labor Day Holiday

September 8-14 Housekeepers' Appreciation Week

September 27-October 4: Space Camp, Huntsville, AL for *pre-selected eligible high school students. Families will be contacted.*

October 3-5 Camp Courage (Helen Keller Family Camp), Tuscumbia, AL for *students ages 9-12 AND their parents/guardians. Eligible students' families will be contacted.*

October 10-12 APH Insite Art Show AND recognition of Mrs. Applebee as America's Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Louisville Ky. *For pre-selected eligible students. Families will be contacted.*

October 14-18: Fall Break. GVEST for our teachers. *Family members may attend. Registration information is forthcoming.*

November 25-29: Thanksgiving Holidays

December 19: Annual Winter Music Program, Art Show and Family Meetings

December 20-January 3: Winter Holidays

January 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

See our completed calendar on our website:

<https://www.gabmacon.org/cms/lib/GA02225912/Centricity/Domain/8/2019-2020%20GAB%20Student%20Calendar.pdf>

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!**



**Spotlight
on a new
Employee:
GAB's
newest
lifeguard!**

My name is Luke Davenport. I'm 19 years old and originally from Warner Robins. I attended High school at Mount de Sales Academy where I played lacrosse. Currently, I am in my second year at Mercer University where I am majoring in Psychology and continue to play on the club lacrosse team. I can't wait to work with you all!



BOX TOPS NEWS

The BOX TOPS collection has started off with a BANG! One of our parents used the Boxed.com website and ordered products which gave our school 100 BOX TOPS. We collected some BOX TOPS from parents, students, and teachers these couple of weeks of school. The total from them is 137. So, the grand total so far is 237. This is at least 20% for our 100% needed to reach our goal. Our goal is 1,000 BOX TOPS by the end of 2019. I have also had several people use the BOX TOPS app. They scanned their receipt and money was added to our school account. If I can do it, I know that anyone can. The app is user friendly. Please email me at slayson@doe.k12.ga.us if you have any questions. Please keep sending in the BOX TOPS you collect with your child. The teachers will give them to me. REMEMBER: Please check the dates anything prior to 11/19 will be out of date. Our deadline for this year is Oct. 31. Thanks for helping our students go on memorable field trips.

You may get the App from iTunes and Google Play. Learn more here:

<https://www.today.com/parents/there-s-whole-new-way-collect-box-tops-education-t159507>

Saturday, September 28th

Discovering the Future

An Action-Planning Workshop for Parents/Caregivers of Young Adults with Vision and/or Hearing Loss and Additional Disabilities

Are you concerned about what your child will do after high school?

Young adults with vision and/or hearing loss and additional disabilities often require more assistance and time in planning for what they will do after high school. This workshop helps prepare families to take an active role in planning for their young adult child's future- with activities that are ***purposeful, meaningful, and enjoyable.***

During the workshop, Parents/Caregivers will:

- begin to imagine what a successful future for their child looks like
- discover tools to help their family work together to imagine and implement that future
- become aware of state resources and how to access them
- create a plan of next steps: What do you need to learn? What supports do you need?

Georgia Academy for the Blind

2895 Vineville Ave., Macon

Saturday, September 28, 2019

10am to 3pm *registration is open 9:00-9:45am; workshop begins promptly at 10:00am*

Box Lunches will be provided! Register online at <https://gsap.wufoo.com/forms/discovering-the-future/>

For questions or more information, contact:

- Carol Darrah, Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Coordinator, cdarrah@uga.edu 706-542-2433
- Jennifer Minter, Georgia Academy for the Blind Parent Mentor, jminter@doe.k12.ga.us 478-751-6083 x1140

If parents/caregivers need to bring their young adult child, we have arranged for GAB staff to provide care and activities for the young adults while their families participate in the workshop. These arrangements must be made by 9/13/19 so that we can plan accordingly.

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 13



October 3-5, 2019

Ivy Green – Birthplace of Helen Keller Tuscumbia, Alabama

At least one parent/guardian must attend, stay with their child in the hotel that is provided and participate in all of the night time activities. Contact Jennifer Minter for the application r@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-751-6083 x1140

Applications DUE September 10!

A New Face on Campus!



Hi all! My name is Michelle Accad and I am currently a student at Florida State University. I am pursuing a Master's degree in Visual Disabilities Education to become a Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments, as well as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. For the next school year, I will be doing student teaching internships. I am so excited to be part of the GAB community for the next 4 months as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist intern under the guidance of Mr. Greg Hudgins.

Spotlight on GAB Alumni: Sydney Brooks

Sydney was born with retinopathy of prematurity and can see partially with the assistance of double lenses. Sydney confesses that when she was younger, she was shy and sad, her isolation reinforced by teachers who ignored her and classmates who bullied her. She felt a painful contrast between what she wanted to do and what people told her she couldn't do: "I wanted to be like everybody else so badly but I knew that I was different and I just had to accept that. When I was younger I never really understood why I was like this, why did I have to be blind in one eye, why couldn't I be like everyone else?" Her family and friends were a positive voice and source of support through it all, telling her not to let her impairment define her or stop her. They told her to "make people see that you can do anything you set your mind to." There were some people at the public school who took the time to get to know her. The breakthrough happened when her vision teacher connected her with **the Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB) in Macon**. She enrolled there in the 9th grade and graduated, as President of her senior class, in 2018.



READ the full story on GAB's Facebook page or go to the link at:

<https://storycollection.gcdd.org/sydney-brooks>

