



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, November 11, 2022

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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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.

Mark your Calendar

11/11 – Veterans Day Program at 10:30, Auditorium

11/18 – Fall Concert (choir & drums) at 10:30

11/21 through 11/25 – Thanksgiving Break

12/2 through 12/4 – Wrestling Invitational at
Tennessee School for Blind

12/15 – 10:30 Christmas Program “ELF” in the
Auditorium with Student Art exhibition

12/19 through 1/2/23 – Holiday Break

1/13 – Next School Council Meeting at 1:00

5/18 – Prom Night (location TBA)

5/25 – Graduation at GAB

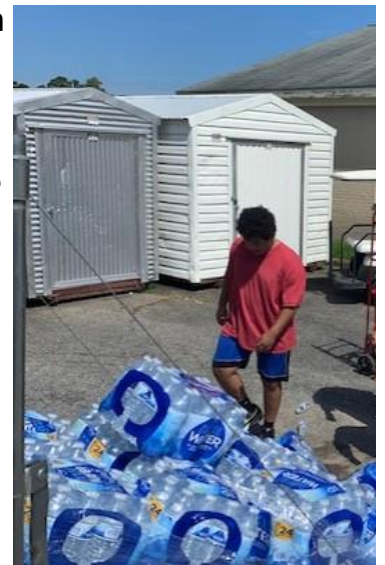
A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Family,

This week at GAB has been full of activity and transition as we approach the end of first semester. First up, I want to thank Allison Hawkins and the Macon Civic Club for a \$1,000 donation which we used for students and chaperones to attend a Broadway production of Fiddler on the Roof. It was a late night and spectacular performance! Thank you to Kristen Applebee and Mark Acree for chaperoning. Students attending were Destiny Butts, Heidi Norman-Magee, Emily Stiles, Karma Denby, Ian Bullock, and Zy Fagin. What an honor to be selected for this ECC event! Mrs. Applebee said, "High school teachers were invited to nominate their best students, and some of those students were invited to attend the Broadway Musical "Fiddler on the Roof" last week at the Grand Opera House! They laughed, gasped, and bobbed their head in all the right spots throughout the incredible performance. The show got off to a late start, which meant a late night, but the bus ride back to campus was abuzz with rave reviews and personal insights. It was an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives!"



In the student spotlight is Jesse Collins. Jesse is training for transition to the REAL work world by working in the Property and Supply warehouse, supervised by Director, Tracie Z. Jesse demonstrates employability ethics and the essentials for commitment to workplace goals. Jesse's duties include delivering supplies, moving and stocking inventory, straightening shelves, shredding documents, and maintaining the emergency water supply. Work-Based Learning (WBL) is only one of the building-block transition programs that explore student interests and build skills for independence.



Please reach out to Principal, Jon Smith if you have questions about the required Title IX training for middle and high school students. School Counselor Octavian Burch and Mental Health Counselor Sonya Milam will teach the provided curriculum.

The GAB Student Title IX Training video is designed to help middle and high school students understand the Title IX Process. They will learn how to report misconduct as well as what support and procedures follow their report. Students will walk through a hypothetical situation to assist in explaining the process. Please note that this training may trigger some students who have experienced prior abuse or assaults. We will be flexible in allowing them to stop the training if necessary and provide access to supportive services including counseling if necessary.

Facilitators Mr. Smith, Mr. Burch, and Mrs. Milam are aware of the reporting pathways and trained on responsibilities to notify the Title IX Coordinator and potentially law enforcement upon receiving a report of Title IX Sexual Harassment. The video is in the link below.

Georgia Academy for the Blind Student Training:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vllc0eD0ojo>

A big shout out for the GAB Goal Ball team and coaches. The goal ball team left to compete in the High School National tournament Thursday, November 3, 2022, in Saint Augustine, FL at the Florida School for the Blind and Deaf. Congratulations to Daquan Brown, Veronica Fleming-Slade, Terrell Robinson, Mary Pickman, Mason Casteel, Shayla Hampton, Ian Rodriguez and Jay Collins. Thank you to Keith Blackwell, Sara Lynch, and Tyzia Brooks for chaperoning. They competed against 17 other teams and were eliminated in the quarter finals. Mary was selected for All American, and the Georgia girls were also awarded the team sportsmanship award for positive attitudes both on and off the court. Go! Panthers!

Looking forward to a grand GAB performance in honor of Veterans Day on Friday, November 11, 2022. To all Veterans we say, "Thank you for your service!"

As ever,

Cindy



"Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!"







PIC•COLLAGE

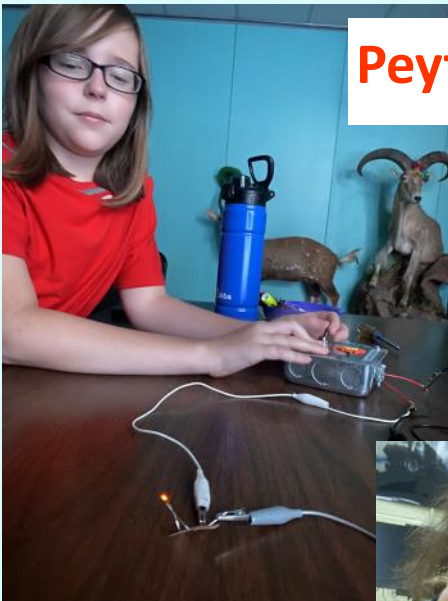


PIC•COLLAGE

3, 2, 1...Blast off!



Students in Mr. Lyon's astronomy class have been working on building model rockets, studying flight vocabulary, Newton's laws, and circuitry. After finishing their rockets, students had to wire up and build the mission control launch box from scratch, which sends electricity to the rocket engine and blasts them off. Check out Peyton lighting up the igniter with the mission control box, Kalena and Sarabeth assembling the box, and DJ painting the rocket. Speaking of blast off, liftoff is scheduled for after Sarabeth gets back from the goalball travel team tournament, so wish our students good luck in their tournament and in their flight - bon voyage!



Peyton



DJ



Kalena



Sarabeth

Why I Teach...

David Logan Guest

Project Search Instructor at GAB

I have been teaching since the year after I graduated from college in 2006. I come from a military family that started out in South Georgia. In 1980 my father graduated from Lowndes County High School and my mother graduated from Cook County both with honors. After being stationed in California and Kansas the Guest family, as we called ourselves, ended up in Missouri where I met my favorite teacher, Mr. Dennis. Mr. D., for short, taught all of the 6th grade subjects and was always able to share life experiences, stories, or other interesting facts that made learning fun. He also found ways to provide discipline without being aggressive and overbearing, a skill that I try to use in class as well. I excelled at school and was very active during Jr. and Sr. high lettering in multiple sports, band and speech/drama. I was also active in the FFA, FCCLA, Quiz Bowl, math team and FBLA. In a small rural town you get plenty of opportunities to participate, which I have tried to promote among my students as well.



I attended the University of Central Missouri with an initial major in education, but found that I did not like focusing on course work after the first semester. My parents allowed me to pick a selection of courses that interested me during my second semester and then to pick a major from one of the them. I ended up choosing a Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Technology with a major in Automotive Technology and Management. This was after ne of my previous coaches and teachers suggested to get a degree in something that I was interested in, then add the teacher credentials, which was a popular option in Missouri. Once I was done with my course work I completed my internship at a small auto shop in south Georgia which I followed up with a job as a Parts/Sales Manager position for Autozone. While working at Autozone I attended the Educator Preparation Institute at Florida at North Florida Community College where I was awarded a student of the year award. While finishing up there I started working at an alternative school, just a year after officially completing my bachelor's degree, in Perry Florida. I coached and taught in Florida for four years, then transferred to Nashville, Georgia at Berrien Middle School where I co-taught several subjects and coached for 4 years. When I felt my time there was coming to an end I found my position at GAB.

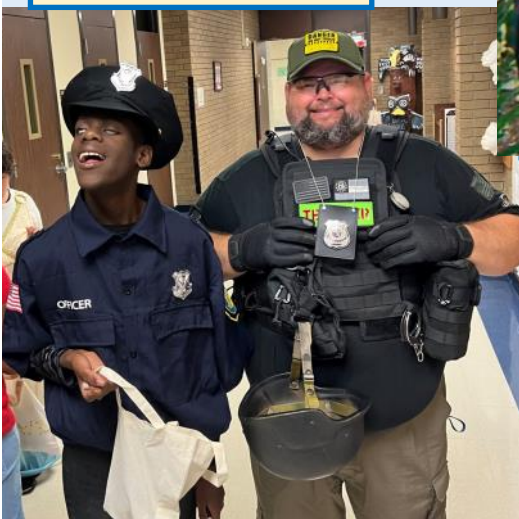
Besides Mr. D., my influences to become a teacher include my mother, my father, sister and many other family members. After being a paralegal in Kansas she became special educator paraprofessional in early childhood education, worked in the front office at my elementary school and then high school. She was then given the opportunity to work at the local college (University of Central Missouri) and jump at it. There she was able to attend for free while my sister and I attended for a great discount. After earning a number of degrees my parents decided to move “home” where my mom became a professor at North Florida Community College. My sister actually moved to Georgia first after earning an instructor position at Darton Community College. She is now a professor at Albany State University in the business department, her husband is a retired professor from ASU as well. My dad has three sisters, one aunt is nearing retirement after working her whole career in Berrien County as a teacher, one aunt recently retired as a Colonel from the Air Force, and the youngest of the three is a state prosecuting attorney. My father retired after a 20 year enlistment in the Air Force where he was in charge of maintenance on B-52’s, B-1’s, and the B-2. During his time he won several awards and trained many successful airmen.

So all of this is to answer the why did I become a teacher. Well I have had a very fun and interesting life. I feel I bring a unique skill set to the classroom that allows me to relate to most any student and I like to share my experiences with my students. I also enjoy surprising them random trivia knowledge, I love to support them as they explore the world around them, and I love to see MY kids grow into prosperous young adults.



Mr. Guest Sister,
Dad, and Mom.

Mr. Guest dressed
as SWAT Police this
Halloween 2022



Jurassic Park at
GAB Halloween
2019



November Birthdays

11/2 Ja'Miyah

11/20 De'andre

11/2 Peyton

11/22 Terrence

11/6 Jazalyn

11/23 Angel

