



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, December 9, 2022

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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Georgia Academy for the Blind

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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

12/15 - 10:30 Christmas Program "ELF" in the Auditorium with Student Art exhibition
IEP Binder Workshop to follow in the Media CTR

12/19 through 1/2/23 - Holiday Break

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

1/16 - Holiday for Martin Luther King Jr.

2/20 - Presidents' Day Holiday

3/27 through 3/31 - Spring Break Week

5/18 - Prom Night (location TBA)

5/25 - Graduation at GAB



Beanie Boys: Mr. Fullergreen, Brayden,
and Mr. Lyon

PBIS-Earn panther paws to shop the cart



GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND PRESENTS



THE MEDLEY

**REYNOLDS AUDITORIUM
DECEMBER 15, 2022
10:30 AM**

Please join me in the Media Center following our
Holiday Program:

IEP Binder Workshop

Come get a free binder with tabs to
organize your student's IEP

Refreshments & Prizes

DECEMBER 15, 2022

For questions contact Jennifer Minter:

478-262-3303



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Families,

This week has been rife with activity and engagement. The GAB music department under the direction of Ms. Catie Holloway was recognized by the Georgia Board of Education and invited to perform at their meeting on Wednesday. The link is included in this issue.

The Hawkins, Brown, Barfield, and Bechtel, Churchwell, Bloodsaw classes enjoyed a day at Twin Oaks Farm in Forsyth, GA. Also, we welcomed back our athletes who competed at the Tennessee School for the Blind in



wrestling.

Cheerleaders

took part also. We had our grand student party of the season today. A few pics are included, but the big spread will be in next week's edition and on

Facebook! Remember that Holiday Spirit Week is next week. We love dressing and expressing our uniqueness! Enjoy the pictures and bragging rights.



Link for performance:

[Georgia Department of Education Live Stream - YouTube](#)



Make plans now to attend the GAB music performance of ELF on Thursday, December 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m. You will see the amazing talent of our GAB students and staff, and you will look forward to every other program that we have. We will have a short parent meeting led by Parent Mentor, Jennifer Minter immediately following the musical on Thursday, December 15.

Big News: GAB and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency are selecting and hiring a dedicated GVRA counselor/teacher for GAB. The position is posted on GVRA's website, and shortly we will begin interviews. GVRA has collaborated with GAB for many years prior to COVID insecurity and now a reorganization. We look forward to serving our students into transition more effectively. What a team!

Please read the minutes of the November School Council meeting. Thank you to Donna West (Tyler's mom) for serving as President! The next meeting is in January, Friday 13, 2023. School Council is a fantastic way to know what is going on at GAB and to connect with staff and other parents!! To know and be known is essential to being part of the progress.

We invite parents and students to take part in the Georgia Student Health Survey. This is one of the assessments on which Georgia Public Schools are scored and supports funding for our special students and school. This survey pertains to the ways that the school supplies students' and families' needs, fulfills instructional, social, and emotional needs and goals, and ensures safety in process for College and Career Readiness/Post-Graduation Transition. Your feedback is important!

Today was Literary Character Day along with the Holiday student party. More characters to come....



White Witch Narnia, Snow Queen
With Turkish Delight in hand



Frosty the Snow Man



Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* with the Mouse from, *If you give a Mouse a Cookie*

As ever,
Cindy

"Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!"



School Council Minutes - AGENDA

GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND SCHOOL COUNCIL

MISSION

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.

November 4th, 2022

Georgia Academy for the Blind
2895 Vineville Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

Call to Order - Donna West

Recognition of Members :

Dr. Cindy Gibson

Alicia Jackson

Jon Smith

Dawn Day

Jennifer Minter Shirley Wingfield

Katrina Thomas Lauren Boyer

Linda Smith Sonya Milam

Lauren Eckman Pam Maddox

Frank Reynolds Octavian Burch

Tyrene Neil Mr. Collins

Kristen Applebee Peyton Prowse

Jacinda Boudle

Recognition of Visitors None

Approval of Agenda -Approved

New Business:

Upcoming Programs

November Veterans Day Program November 11th at 10:30 am.

Fall Concert November 18th @ 10:30 am.

Thanksgiving Break November 21st – November 25th, 2022

Sports Traveling Trips

Goalball team will be traveling to St. Augustine, FL on 11/3/22 to 11/6/22 for competitions.

GAB Wrestling team will be going to Nashville, Tn 12/2/2022 to 12/4/22

Mrs. Applebee – Field Trips

Macon Art Alliance- they donated 20 pieces of Art work to GAB

AHP awards were 10/6/22-10/8/22 in Louisville, KY

Several students were honored.

Field Trip to Fiddler on the Roof.

Senior Update – Mr. Collins

Silent Auction

Choose class officers.

Cornhole tournament

Teacher Reports: Ms. Thomas reports that everything is going well.

Working on increasing our reading scores.

Red Ribbon week was a success.

Parent Reports:

Cottage Reports: Going Well!

Superintendent Report:

C buildings will be renovated. They are now in design phase, so construction is some time out from now.

Holiday Spirit Days

December 8, 2022

Thursday: Character Day -

Come dressed as your favorite literary character!

December 12-16, 2022

Monday: Candy Cane Day - Wear red and white on this day!

Tuesday: Tacky Tuesday -

Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and/or any other ridiculous holiday attire.

Wednesday: Festive Hats & Holiday Socks -

Wear your favorite holiday socks and festive hats/headgear.

Thursday: Winter Wonderland -

Come dressed in shades of blue and/or white.

Friday: Jeans and Bling - Come dressed in your favorite pair of jeans and holiday tops and/or fancy sweaters along with your favorite Christmas accessories including jewelry, bangles, bracelets, etc.

**Happy Holidays and
Have Fun!**



The 2022-2023 Georgia Student Health Survey, Georgia Parent Survey and the Georgia School Personnel Survey will be administered soon. Survey participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage participation in the surveys to provide schools with critically important data to help guide prevention and intervention strategies. The surveys will open on Monday, November 7, 2022, and remain open through Friday, March 17, 2023. The survey links are provided below.

Please note that the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\)](#) requires that schools notify parents/guardians about the student survey and give them the option to opt out if so desired. Georgia Student Health Survey questions should be made available for review by parents/guardians and other parties upon request.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) approves “passive” parental consent on the Georgia Student Health Survey which allows parents to “opt out” of survey participation by returning a signed consent form to the school. Of course, local school systems that wish to use "active" parental consent may certainly do so. Sample passive consent letters and the survey questions are available on our [GSHS webpage](#) to the right of your screen under “Related Documents”.

Surveys links to our survey participation webpage are available below. The survey participation webpage will help you monitor survey participation rates for each of your schools.

Families please click on the link below to take this short survey:

Georgia Parent Survey

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/parents>

These link below will be shared with your student at school if they would like to participate:

Georgia Student Health Survey – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (grades 3-5)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/elementary>

Georgia Student Health Survey - MIDDLE SCHOOL (grades 6-8)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/middleschool>

Georgia Student Health Survey - HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9-12)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/highschool>

December

Birthdays

D'Shaun	12/1	Kalena	12/23
Xander	12/4	Nehemiah	12/24
Joshua	12/5	Zariyah	12/25
Will	12/7	Seth	12/26
Israel	12/12	Jermaine	12/29
Caden	12/17	D	12/29
D.J.	12/19	James	12/31

