



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

**Friday, August 19, 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 Calendars*

**9/5** - Labor Day Holiday

**9/11 through 9/17** - Housekeeping Appreciation week

**9/16 through 9/23** - Space Camp in Huntsville, AL

**9/23** - First School Council Meeting on Friday at 1:00

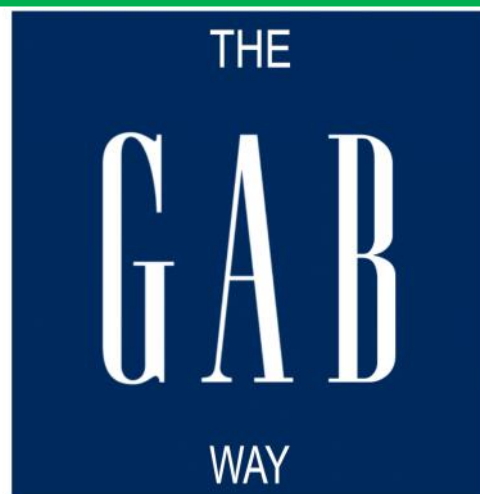
**10/11 through 10/14** - Fall Break Week

**PBIS** Positive Behavioral  
Interventions & Supports



**Next week's  
Motto:**

**Punctuality**  
**Promptness**



**Give it your best**  
**Achieve your goals**  
**Be respectful**

# A message from our Superintendent

If you want to know what Equity looks like, you need not consult Merriam-Webster! Just peer into the classrooms and Living and Learning Centers of the Georgia Academy for the Blind. Equity is: Every student has a unique IEP! Equity is: Transition programs are tailored to THE student! Equity is:

Differentiation in instructional strategies and student performance enhances a student's optimum opportunity for success and achievement. In opening school staff activities, the administrative team set the tone for Equity with All Star Tennis Shoes -- If we give everyone a shoe, that is nothing more than equality. Ah, but we don't all start at the same place, so "equality" may just further the damage of the "gap." Equity is: All people make choices for what "fits" their goals, interests, abilities, and training! Thank you to Paraprofessional, Justin Fuller-Green for his Movin' On, Movin' Strong bulletin board in the Hendricks Building lobby Grow your OWN Way!

Let's take a moment to support positive Choices and Growing. Recently we had a spate of "diss tracks" involving GAB students. The tracks were posted on public, social media. A concern that any student or family would have is that hate messages, bullying behaviors, and harassment in the school setting are harmful, illegal, and best addressed at the earliest stages and lowest level of authority. Such conduct is a violation of the Code of Conduct for Georgia Public Schools. Gone are the days that we can "close a blind eye" to the negative effects as anxiety and depression that social ridicule may promote. Yes, kids will be kids, and we must band together to teach them. Equity is: Respecting those who may seem so different from you! Respecting others is essential to self-respect.

Speaking of Movin' On--- Congratulations are in order for Tracie Zabokrtsky as she is promoted to Property and Supply Manager at GAB. You know Tracie as assistant and "brain" for Tyrene Neil, GAB Special Education Director. "Ain't no sunshine when she's gone," but the position is advertised for hiring!!



Tracie Zabokrtsky  
Property and Supply Manager



As ever,  
**Cindy**

**"Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!"**

# FLASHBACK FRIDAY



**Mrs. Creech with Seth & Brian:**

This school year marks the 14th year at GAB for Mrs. Creech, 18th year for Seth & 13th year for Brian.

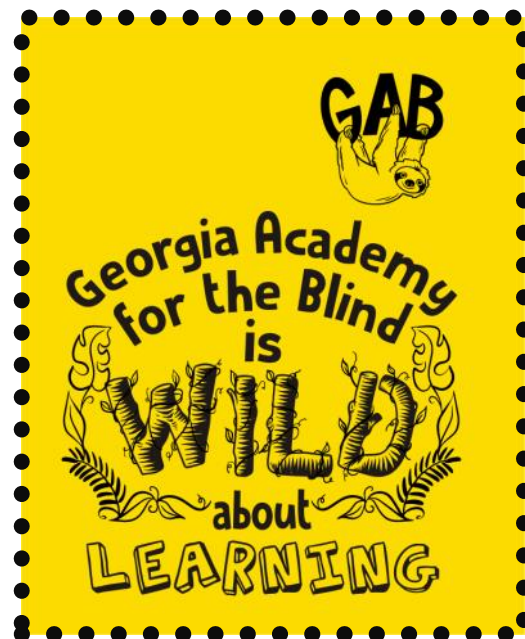


**Destiny with Ms. Alligood:**

This school year marks Destiny's 12th year at GAB and Ms. Alligood's 20th year here.



**We are so wild about our  
Summer Program  
T-shirt this year that we  
are offering it to  
everyone who is wild  
about GAB!**



**Please pre order:**

**T-shirt size Small - XL = \$15**

**T-shirt size 2XL to 4XL = \$18**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Order:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Transition Talk

*Independent Living Skills* is an essential area of the Expanded Core Curriculum which we teach at

GAB each day. People who are visually impaired need to organize their daily lives in specific ways to live independently. This area includes tasks and functions people perform in daily life to optimize their independence (Perkins, 2022). At GAB, we consider each moment we spend with our students a teachable opportunity. For our students who reside in the Living and Learning Centers during the week, they are assigned daily tasks and chores that fosters independent living and self-reliance. Students are expected to make up their beds and keep their rooms clean, wash their clothes, and clean their areas after each meal. Depending on their skill set, some students participate in meal planning and preparation, making simple snacks, and making healthy choices.

At home, you can support your child in becoming more independent by reinforcing independent living skills as they occur naturally at home. For example, if your child is a day student, set a bedtime routine which includes them preparing their clothes for school the next day. For those students who live on campus, allow them to assist with washing and packing for the following week. Allow your child to participate in meal-time routines such as wiping down the table, setting the table, and/or removing dishes after a meal. All opportunities and tasks you can incorporate in your child's daily routine to support independence will aid in becoming independent and self-sufficient adults.

This week, I included some pictures of our students in the Living and Learning Centers. You will see that they are each involved in activities that support independent living. If you care to share, please send us some of your pictures that shows how you are fostering independence with your child at home!

Until next week, let's keep working towards successful transition outcomes!

Alicia M. Jackson

Principal of Transition

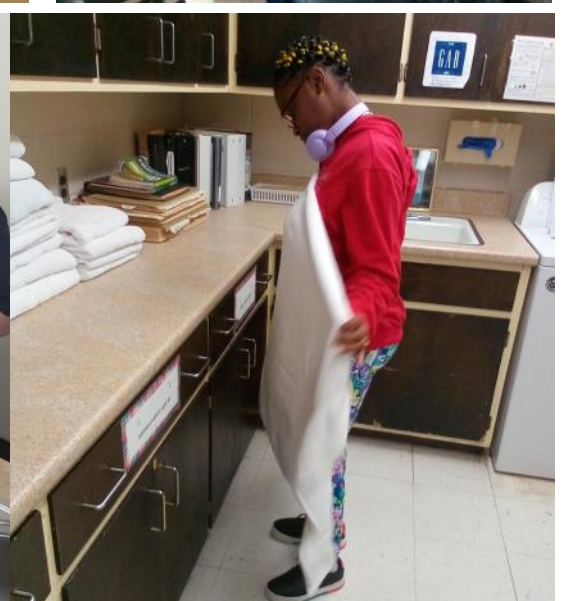
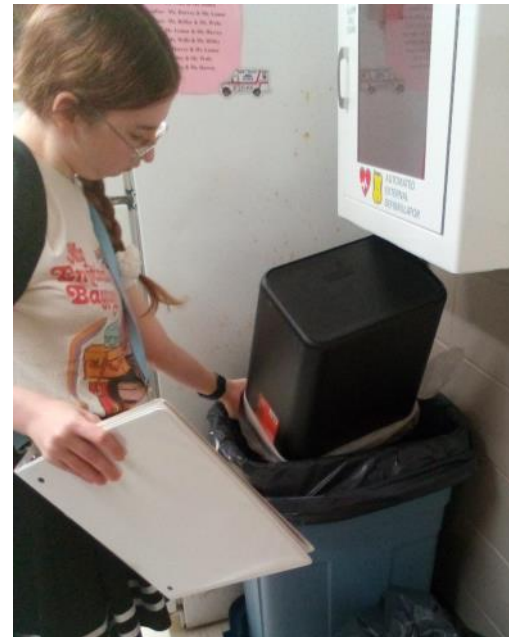
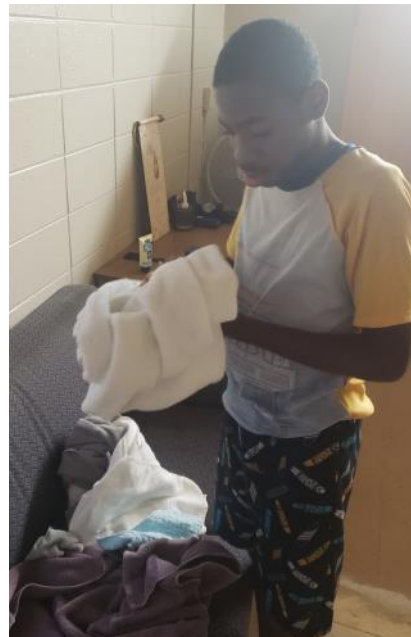
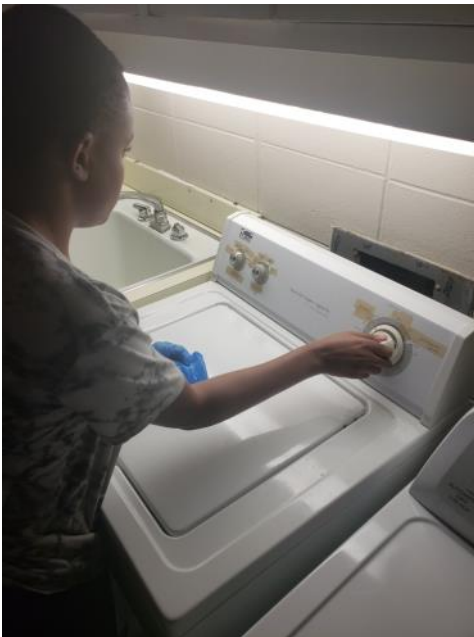


Ian is preparing his dinner using the microwave independently.





## Independent Living Skills



# **August**

# **Birthdays**

8/2	Devin	8/20	Karma
8/3	Logan A.	8/25	Josie
8/3	Justice	8/29	Rickoy
8/5	MJ	8/30	Emily
8/6	Marquan	8/30	Jesse

