



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, August 20th, 2021

*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.

## *Mark your Calendars*

**8/20** - School Council Meeting at 1:00 on Friday.

**9/6** - Labor Day Holiday.

## NATIONAL RADIO DAY

***On August 20th***, National Radio Day recognizes the great invention of the radio. Celebrate the news, information, music, and stories carried across the airwaves. Several inventors participated in the invention of the radio in the late 1800s. Amazingly, not just one person can be credited with its beginning. Instead, each component developed through invention and discovery. As these technologies converged, the radio came to life.



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](mailto:JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us) or call **478-262-3303**. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

# A message from our Superintendent

Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn,  
whatever state I may be in, therein to be content. **Helen Keller**

**Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,**

I hope you will join us for the first School Council meeting of the year at 1:00 p.m. today by Zoom. You have received the link, but reach out to Parent Mentor, Jennifer Minter if you need help. Family feedback is important to all of us as we serve our children and strive to align our climate with families' goals for their students' achievement. You will hear reports of teachers on the progress of the school year and keep abreast of the state of the school. GAB is 90 students strong and growing!

Thank you all for your patience and support as we follow DPH mitigation guidance for COVID-19 ongoing public crisis. (Most of us would say "nuisance." LOL) We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding of efforts to prevent illness. We will review the latest DPH guidance (August 19, 2021) at School Council, but here is some very pertinent information.

- 1) State Schools District leadership approves GAB to employ quarantine/isolation practices compliant with our surrounding districts. GAB is in Bibb County, a district of approximately 24,000 students.
- 2) If you are notified that your child has been exposed to COVID, whether at school or elsewhere, it is recommended that you consult with your child's health care provider for further guidance.

*If your child presents with any one symptom of COVID-19 within a 14-day period following his/her exposure date, then please keep your child home immediately, advise your school, and follow up with your child's health care provider.*

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

- 3) If your child remains without symptoms after the exposure, the options are as follows unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider of Department of Public Health.

Choice #1 - Allow your child to continue attending school. This choice may be preferable for a child who has been vaccinated for COVID prevention. The school does not have information on whether a child received this vaccination and cannot require vaccination.

- Child must remain without symptoms.

- Parent/child must monitor for symptoms daily for a full 14-day period following his/her exposure date.
- Child to stay home immediately if any one symptom appears. Notify your child's school and follow up with your child's healthcare provider.

4) **Choice #2** - Quarantine your child. This is preferable for a child who has not received vaccination for COVID prevention. The school does not have information on whether a child received this vaccination and cannot require vaccination.

- Quarantine your child for up to 14 days.
- If you choose to test your child, it is recommended that you test on day 5 or later from his/her exposure date. Please keep your child home. until the test results are received. If your child does test positive, then advise your child's school nurse.
- Your child will be provided school assignments and counted present for compulsory attendance purposes.
- Notify your child's school that you are choosing this option and when your child will return to school.

5) The Georgia Academy for the Blind notifies the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) of student and staff exposure and may be in contact with those reported.

Speaking for the entire GAB staff, it is a pleasure to serve our families regardless of the state in which we find ourselves. Let us continue to work together to serve and protect our students.

As ever,  
Cindy



# EECC in the Cottage



EECC Students preparing and enjoying Rotel Queso Cheese dip to celebrate returning back to school. The girls enjoyed making a microwave snack as they worked on following a basic recipe, safely dicing cheese, and safely operating a microwave.



## Rotel Queso Cheese Dip

### Ingredients:

1 can (10 oz each) Rotel Diced Tomatoes & Green Chilies, undrained  
1 pkg (16 oz each) Velveeta, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

### Directions:

To make in microwave, combine undrained tomatoes and Velveeta in 1-1/2-quart microwave-safe dish-- **cover**. Microwave on HIGH 3-5 minutes or just until Velveeta melts, stirring after 2 minutes. Remove from microwave; stir until mixture is blended. Serve with tortilla chips.

**CAUTION:** Dish will be hot; use hot pads.

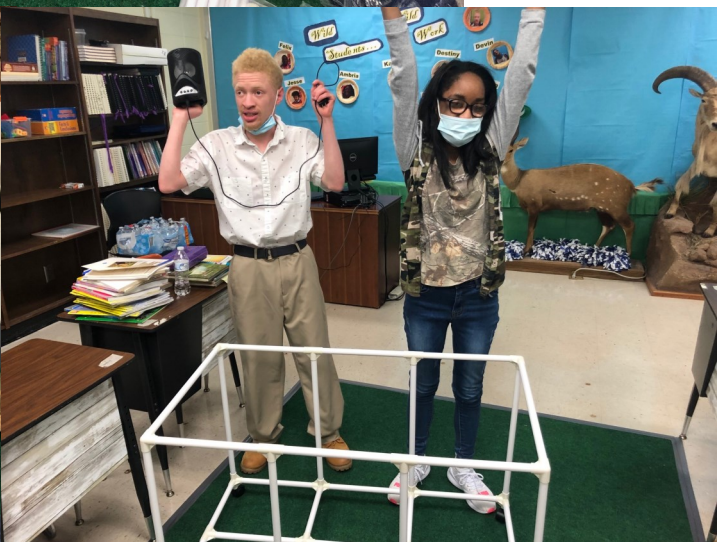
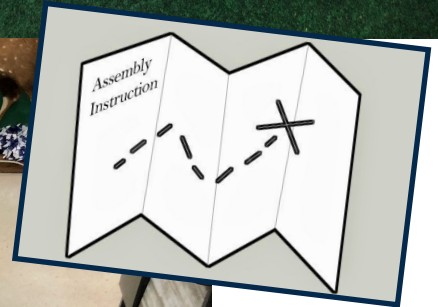
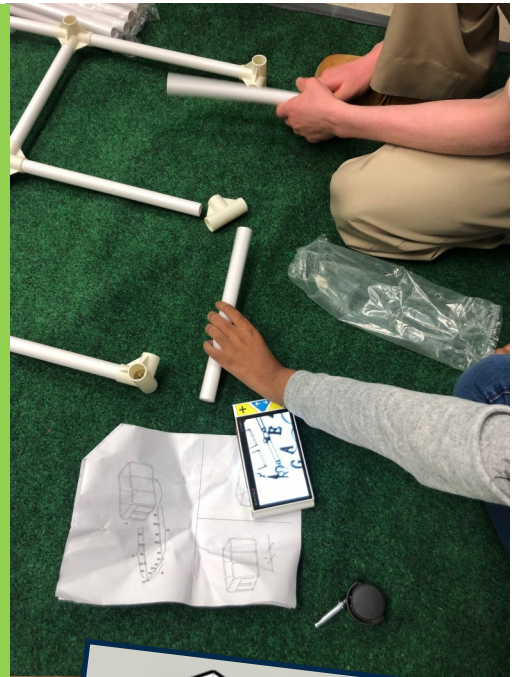






## Learning to Assemble:

In Mr. Lyon's class, Ian and Ambria used the magnifier to follow directions and put together a wheelie cart that can be used around the school. Ambria was super excited about it!







Students enjoy being outside whether it's for recess, PE, after lunch, or walking to classes!



# **August** **Birthdays**

**8/2 Devin 8/6 Marquan**

**8/2 Kaden 8/25 Josie**

**8/3 Logan 8/29 Dez**

**8/5 MJ 8/29 Rickoy**

**8/30 Jesse**

