



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, September 30, 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

9/30 – First School Council Meeting on Friday at 1:00

10/11 through 10/14 – Fall Break Week

10/26 – Fall Dance on Wednesday, from 6 to 8pm

11/3 through 11/5 – National Highschool Goalball
Tournament in St. Augustine, FL

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

PBIS

Positive Behavioral
Interventions & Supports

Next week's Motto:

Responsibility:

**Treat others
with kindness
& respect**



THE
GAB
WAY

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

A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Families,

We are safely through another week. The inclement weather conditions forecast to affect the middle Georgia area have moved eastward such that the projected outcome for our area is minimal and pleasantly fall as we close out the month of September. Bring on the **pumpkins, bonfires, and boots!**



Remember: School Council meets Friday, September 30, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Reach out to Jennifer Minter if you need assistance joining. The meeting is open to all GAB stakeholders and may be online or in-person to your preference.



Another date: GaDOE has approved

Graduation Day 2023 for Thursday, May 25, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

We are pleased to announce progress in selection of qualified candidates for essential positions at GAB. Our Maintenance Department under the leadership of Tracie Zabokrtsky and Housekeeping Department under the leadership of Tierra Fields have spent hours in vetting resumes and interviewing candidates that we will be nominating shortly. Notice Tierra's tears of joy as many hands DO make the work light!





“Of the Year” -They got to pick their parking spot around campus!

This upcoming week marks another “return to normal” event. Ms. Alicia Jackson, Principal of Transition, and I fly out to Louisville, KY, to the Annual Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB) meeting and the Annual Trustees Meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) for the first time since 2019. Several students from GAB will join us to be honored at the APH International Art Show event, a gala that celebrates the winners and APH associates! Ms. Applebee has a legacy of GAB award-winning art and artists! COSB is a 2-day networking opportunity for knowing the latest programs and advances at sister schools across the nation. APH offers blindness services professional learning and meetings with vendors for those resources and hands-on learning of the latest APH supplies and assistive devices. APH also is the chief organization for advocacy for the blind and the appropriation of Quota funds. As we know, teaching any child costs money, but teaching children with visual impairment is tremendously more expensive. Go to <https://www.aph.org/federal-quota> to learn more!

After fall break (October 10 – 16, 2022) there will be GVEST accolades, follow up of the APH student field trip, and an update on appropriating a Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for GAB students to enhance the seamless transition services pre- and post-graduation!

Happy fall, y’all!



As ever,

Cindy

“Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!”

Transition Talk

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you begin to think about your student transitioning from school to postsecondary options, GAB would like to introduce you to an additional service that your student may be eligible for. This service is Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) provides services to help eligible persons with disabilities prepare for, start, and maintain competitive employment. The goal of VR is to assist students after they leave high school to become productive and independent citizens in their communities.

VR offers many services such as:

- Counseling and Guidance
- Postsecondary Support
- Supported Employment
- Work Readiness Training
- Work Adjustment Training
- Vocational Training
- On-the-job training

To receive VR services, your student needs to be on a caseload. If you would like to begin the process for your student to be placed on the VR caseload, please email me at ajackson@doe.k12.ga.us and I will send you the Transition Parental Permission form. Please complete this form and return it to me, Alicia M. Jackson, and I will then send the paperwork to GVRA for processing. I also encourage you to contact Ms. Jennifer Arnold, GVRA Counselor at 478-245-7576 (c) or 478-953-1095 (office) to begin the process of ensuring that your child is on the GVRA caseload and to gain additional information regarding their services. For your student, time is of the essences for these services to be in place before they graduate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.



Alicia M. Jackson
Principal of Transition



TEAM ALBA

SEPTEMBER 18th - SEPTEMBER 23rd, 2022

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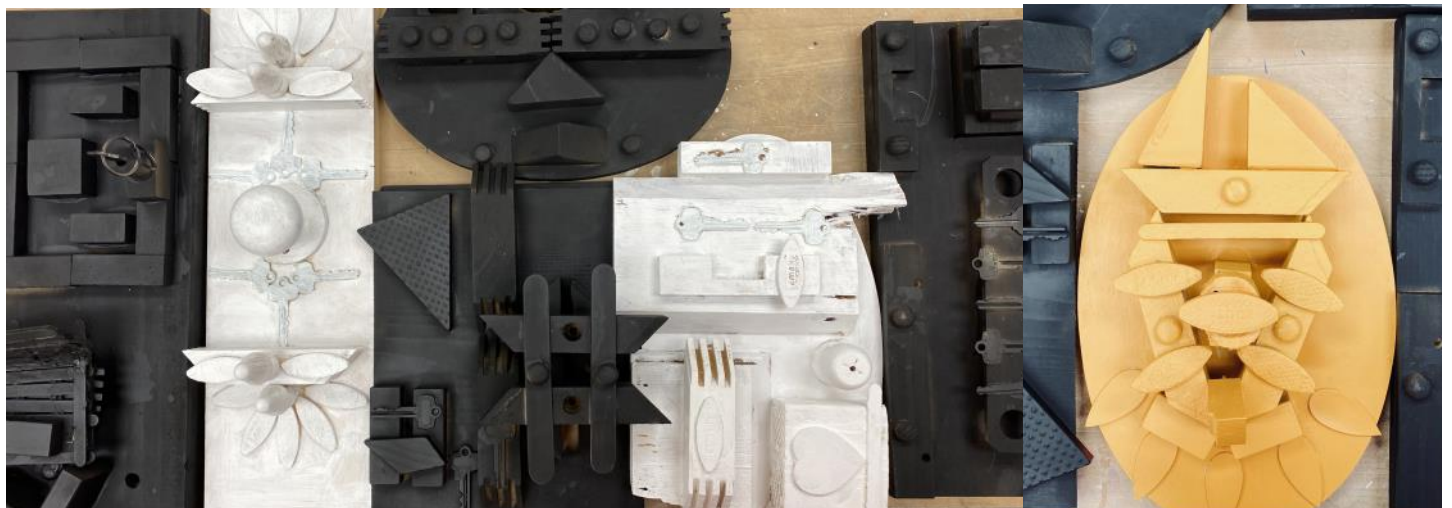
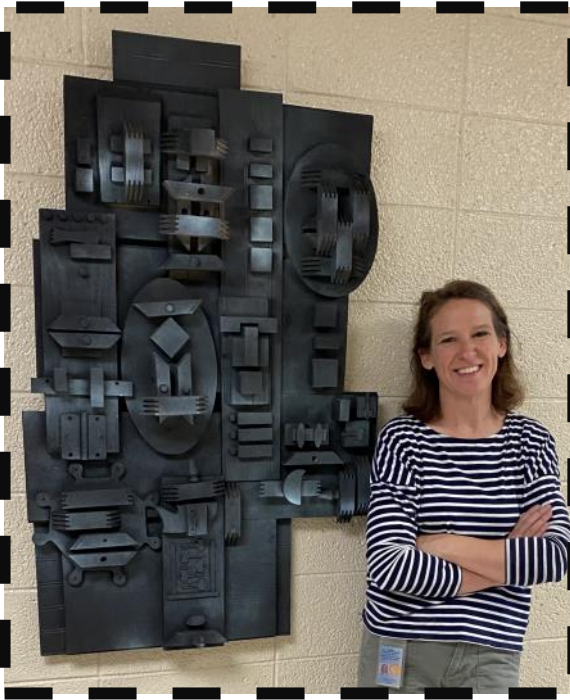
Students on Team Alba consisted of students from GAB, Texas, and Delaware. They all came together to complete missions and learned team building skills to better aid in their success during missions.



Mason was the only GAB student approved to scuba. He stayed down the longest out of the other non-GAB students at the bottom of a 30-foot tank. He was in his own happy world spinning around and swimming through tunnels and dunking a bowling ball through the basketball hoop.

You are never too old to play with blocks, in fact Louise Nevelson was using found objects to build sculptures into her eighties! GAB Art students each made their own Nevelson style assemblage sculptures using scraps of wood, keys, stretcher bars and other found

materials. They had spent the weeks leading up to this project, using hammers, nails, drills, screws, and caulk gun to learn ECC skills and make other tactile art pieces. Some of the students donated their small projects to build a very large and heavy wooden wall piece for our Art room. Shout out to Ms. Brown for donating wood, Ms. Z for the keys, and Ms. Alligood for all the wood glue!



This year is starting off with a “BANG” in our BOX TOPS collections.

Here are a few places that you have gone and uploaded your receipts.

Kroger, Publix, Ingles, Boxed.com, Dollar General, Walgreens, Walmart, CVS Pharmacy, and Harris Teeter. The places you can buy products that have BOX TOPS are everywhere, so be on the lookout for that symbol.



Our total since the beginning of July 2022 is unbelievable. We have a total of \$84.00!!! * That is 80% of our 100% goal. *

We are going to be able to set another goal before the end of this school term!

I am so thankful for all your support. This money is earned is used for field trips with our students.

Please continue to shop and upload your receipts. Remember to select: Georgia Academy for the Blind.

Thanks,

Ms. Layson

If you need any help is getting started contact me at slayson@doe.k12.ga.us.



October

Birthdays

10/2 Kemet 10/13 Kayleigh

10/2 Ame 10/17 Kevin

10/3 Jordon 10/20 Hope

10/6 Santi 10/24 DaShia

10/9 Jordan 10/31 Jackson

