



Panther Press

A weekly publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

May 10, 2019

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent
2895 Vineville Avenue
Macon, GA 31204
478-751-6083
www.gabmacon.org



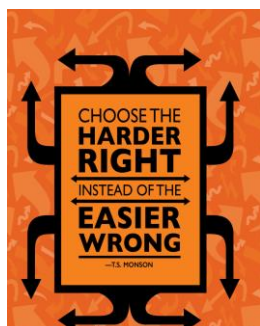
Georgia Academy for the
Blind - GAB



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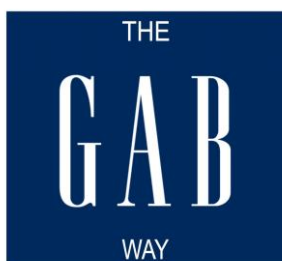
Last day of school countdown: **10** more DAYS!

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. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhkGSe98>



Mark Your Calendars


May 16: 10 am Awards Day
May 16: 4 pm Project SEARCH graduation lobby of the Navicent Health Heart Tower
May 17: 11 am Graduation in our new and improved auditorium!
May 24: Last day of school
August 5: First day of school



Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

School's Out!

POWER UP
for
Summer Fun!



Did you know there are free activities and meals available in your community for your kids and teens this summer?

Find a site near you!

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Call: 1-866-348-6479
Visit: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks
Text: "Summer Meals" to 97779

No cost or enrollment required.
Open to all children under 18.

USDA | Food and Nutrition Service | USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Character Education

Courage – To meet a challenge without giving in to fear.

IT TAKES
COURAGE TO
GROW UP AND
BECOME WHO
YOU REALLY ARE

—e.e. cummings

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor, Sonya Milam. Please send your ideas, news, and resources in your community to her. smilam@doe.k12.ga.us, 478-262-3303 **Please remember, to contact us if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!**



A note from Ms. Holloway: All males in Senior Chorus and Boys' Ensemble must wear BLACK SHOES DRESS SHOES for graduation on May 17.

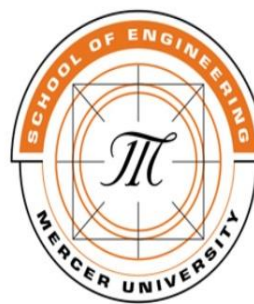


Announcement from Ms. Knight to high school families: We've sent home letters about high school credits and next year's classes. Please read, discuss with your child, sign and return on Monday.



Last Week in Pictures

Below: We are so grateful to Dr. Sinjae Hyun and students from Mercer University School of Engineering who gifted each of our graduates and our school with 3-D yearbooks. Photo description: GAB students and the MU students posing together with one student holding his year book.





May Student Birthdays:

Mary Beth	May 4	Tyzie	May 19
Jordan W.	May 4	Heidei	May 20
Hope M	May 7	Austin	May 24

May Staff Birthdays:

Ms. Stokes	May 1	Ms. McDavid	May 6
Ms. Francis	May 3	Ms. Patterson	May 10
Ms. Neil	May 4	Mr. Jackson	May 22
Ms. Drinkard	May 6	Mr. Moore	May 24

This Week in Pictures.....

On Wednesday two of our middle Georgia graduating seniors, TJ Phillips and Frankie Massey, as well as their selected teaching team members, were honored at the Middle Georgia Regional Transition Council's Achievement Awards Ceremony. Pictured on the top row is Frankie with his chosen teacher, Mr. Jackson then with his family and Ms. Edenfield. The bottom row features TJ with his chosen teacher, Ms. Lynch then with his family and Ms. Thompson.



Creating a literacy-rich summer!



Dear Families,

Part 2

Did you know your child has access to digital and audiobooks this summer if you have a device with internet? This can be a computer, phone, or tablet. Please see the links and FREE apps below to access these resources. Your child's user name and password have been sent home with them in the coming weeks. You may also contact me for user names and passwords. Please contact me with any questions. Happy reading!

Kim Smith, TVI, M. Ed.

Media Specialist ksmith@doe.k12.ga.us or 478-751-6083 ext 1280



Follow us on Twitter: [@gadoenews](https://twitter.com/gadoenews)



Introducing **SYNC**, a free summer audiobook program for teens 13+ is available for IOS®, Android™, Kindle® and Windows Phone®, as well as for Windows and Mac desktop platforms. <https://www.audiobooksync.com/>



Learning Ally [Learningally.org](https://www.learningally.org) Apple or android device: Learning Ally Link



Bookshare [Bookshare.org](https://www.bookshare.org), Apple Device: Capti App Android Device: Go Read App



Summer movies and educational programs: Streaming TV and Movies, DVDs, Interactive Media, Resources, and more from our friends at Described and Captioned Media Program. Subscribe by clicking here: <https://dcmp.org/>



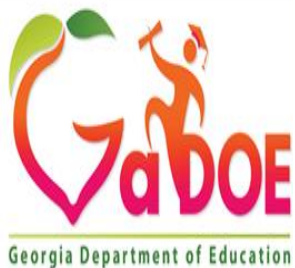
Did you know that blind children in the U.S. and Canada can receive **three** free braille books per year!? Just register your child by clicking here or contact Sonya Milam paper application.

Just added!



Here's a link where families can download free audiobooks from APH to a thumb drive or blank NLS cartridge to be played on an NLS player. <https://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/free-audio-books/download/#help>





Last Week in Pictures

Congratulations to Austin Rogers who was named a winner of the Georgia Department of Education's Award of Excellence. This award honors Georgia high school seniors with disabilities who have had outstanding academic and/or extracurricular involvement in school/community, career education, ROTC, and/or employment and is graduating with a General Education Diploma. Rogers was selected by a team of educators to represent Georgia Academy for the Blind in the statewide competition.

Rogers has maintained a 4.0 grade point during his graduating senior year, and is a full time intern for GAB Project SEARCH at Navicent Health in Macon, GA, where he currently works in Patient Experience and Public Relations as a Way Finder, escorting hospital visitors to their destination. Rogers entered GAB as a first-grade student and has participated in various extracurricular activities at GAB throughout his tenure. Because of his GAB day student status, Rogers was able to serve 7 years as team manager for sports teams in his home middle and high school in Bleckley County. This year Austin has represented GAB in several off-campus speaking engagements for Downtown Rotary Club, the Autism Conference at Navicent, and Braille Challenge. Rogers also volunteered his time to foster community awareness of visual impairments by participating in White Cane Day activities at Navicent Health, and Navicent Rehabilitation Hospital. Additionally, Austin has been honored as Student of the Week by the Downtown Rotary Club. He was also recognized as Employee of the Week by his Navicent Patient Experience and Public Relations Department. Austin will be graduating from Project SEARCH on May 16, and receiving his high school diploma from GAB on May 17. After graduation, he will be employed as a greeter for Macon Bacon baseball, and hopes to continue employment in the customer service field. Rogers was presented his Award of Excellence on May 1 by Richard Woods, Georgia School Superintendent, at a special Department of Education ceremony in Atlanta. Austin is pictured below with Mr. Woods, then as a first grader, with Ms. Keith (GAB's Project SEARCH Program Manager) and Ms. Jackson (GAB's Project SEARCH Instructor).



More of This Week in Pictures.....



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"Let me win, but if I can't win,
let me be brave in the attempt."

