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

Next week’s Motto:
Trustworthiness
Reliable
Dear GAB Family,

Looking forward to a holiday weekend! GAB is deep in the throes of instruction and a wide array of extra-curricular activities. This week I want to share what “success” looks like as we prepare GAB students for graduation. Success is graduating students for literate citizenship, prepared for transition and vocation to the highest potential of each unique individual! Toward that overarching goal, State Schools and GAB have launched a new English/Language Arts curriculum program including three selected publishers and series to cover instruction K-12. The process of selection has taken over two years of committee work which has been facilitated by leaders in blindness and deaf/hard of hearing instruction.

You may preview any materials used in your child’s instruction, and we encourage you to grab any opportunity to share what your child is learning. Additionally, Dr. Gloria Gardiner, who was featured in last week’s Panther Press, has been named Literacy Coach. Having attended GAB, herself, she recognizes the importance of styling literacy approaches to students’ learning styles, IEP goals with accommodations, and transition options. She has many years of teaching special education content classes and as Braille specialist. We welcome her to the leadership team, and you will enjoy getting to know her.

See Ms. Alicia Jackson’s article on Self-Determination! Mr. Will Denby, Grade 7, wowed the administrative team this week with a proposal that affects staff and students at GAB and holds promise to boost school climate!

As ever,

Cindy

“Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!”
Dear Dr. Gibson, I have a suggestion about the bell. How do you feel about drawing three names of the student and staff to choose the noise or songs for the bell.

The first staff may go on Monday and Tuesday, they can split Wednesday beside Wednesday.

The kids can have the rest of the week. Oh, about Wednesday the staff can go first. William Denley

[Signature]
While each of the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum hold value in educating the whole child, for our students, learning self-determination skills is critical for successful post-secondary outcomes. “For young adults who are blind, deafblind or have multiple disabilities, developing self-determination is an important step in the process of transitioning from school to adulthood (Perkins, 2022).

Self-determination involves students setting their own goals, adults allowing students to be participants in the decision making of their own lives, and most importantly, students learning to manage their own schedules. Allowing students to practice self-determination while they are young will aid in building the skills needed to think, plan, and act upon the goals they set in life.

You can support your child in self-determination by assisting your child with the following:

- Assisting with setting realistic goals: personal, academic and career
- Developing action plans to meet their goals
- Understanding their strengths and challenges

Please click on the video link and watch our very own, Will Denby demonstrating his excellent self-determination skills!

First edition Station GAB.MOV

Alicia M. Jackson
Principal of Transition
Mr. Collins with Dr. Bennett: This is Mr. Collins 10th year of teaching at GAB and Dr. Bennett’s 12th year teaching.

Mr. Reynolds & Ms. Shirley: This school year marks Ms. Shirley’s 14th year at GAB and the 44th year for Mr. Reynolds!
Students from the Thompson/Lynch class have paired with students from Mrs. Churchwell and Ms. Barfield’s classes to create a new club similar to Best Buddies. Best Buddies goal is to build friendships among all students, offering social mentoring while improving the quality of life and level of inclusion. The Panther Pals will meet together on a weekly basis for planned social opportunities with one another. Devin, Justice, and Zy were matched with a pal to mentor, work with and have fun with throughout the school year. Tyson, Marquan and Destiny had a great time meeting their new friends. The students are very excited to get to know one another and grow together with mentoring and fun social opportunities.
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:______________________________________________________

There is still time to get a T-shirt. Please send your order form and money to Jennifer Minter.

Deadline to order will be 9/12