



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, September 2, 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:

Trustworthiness

Reliable

THE
GAB
WAY

Give it your best
Achieve your goals
Be respectful

A message from our Superintendent

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
students and staff to choose
the noise or songs for the bell.
The first staff they can 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 Denby

william denby

Transition Talk

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



Alicia M. Jackson

Principal of Transition

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

[First edition Station GAB.MOV](#)

FLASHBACK FRIDAY



Mr. Reynolds & Ms. Shirley: This school year marks Ms. Shirley's 14th year at GAB and the 44th year for Mr. Reynolds!



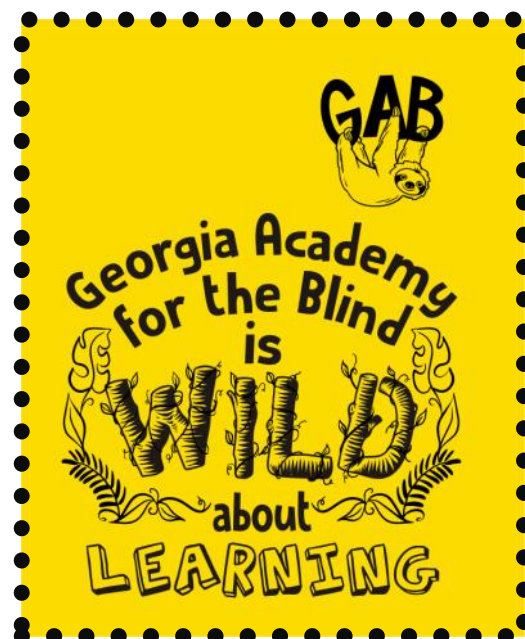
Mr. Collins with Dr. Bennett: This is Mr. Collins 10th year of teaching at GAB and Dr. Bennett's 12th year teaching.





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

**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

Name: _____

Order: _____ Total Cost: _____

Phone number: _____

