



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, November 18, 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 Calendar

11/18 - Fall Concert (choir & drums) at 10:30

11/21 through 11/25 - Thanksgiving Break



12/2 through 12/4 - Wrestling Invitational at
Tennessee School for Blind

12/15 - 10:30 Christmas Program "ELF" in the
Auditorium with Student Art exhibition

12/19 through 1/2/23 - Holiday Break

1/13 - Next School Council Meeting at 1:00

1/16 - Holiday for Martin Luther King Jr.

3/27 through 3/31 - Spring Break

5/18 - Prom Night (location TBA)

5/25 - Graduation at GAB

A message from our Superintendent

Dear Families,

It is the eve of Thanksgiving break dismissal, and we are planning myriad activities to celebrate this magical time of year. I hope you will be attending our Music presentation at 10:30 today (Friday, November 18, 2022), in Reynolds Auditorium. Make plans now to attend the GAB music performance of ELF on Thursday, December 15, 2022. You will see the amazing talent of our GAB students and staff, and you will look forward to every additional program that we have.

In this issue we celebrate our student leadership of the Student Council and the Senior Class. We are proud of the ownership our students take in the GAB Way and the camaraderie that comes from students working together and making real life decisions for our school.

We invite parents and students to participate in the Georgia Student Health Survey. This is one of the assessments on which Georgia Public Schools are scored and supports funding for our special students and school. This survey pertains to the ways that the school provides students' and families' needs, fulfills instructional, social, and emotional needs and goals, and ensures safety in process for College and Career Readiness/Post-Graduation Transition. Your feedback is important!

We wish you a healthy and restful Thanksgiving week. GAB will reopen Sunday afternoon, November 27, 2022. Stay tuned for pictures of **Kirby's Birthday PAW-ty**, November 29!



As ever,

Cindy

"Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!"



The 2022-2023 Georgia Student Health Survey, Georgia Parent Survey and the Georgia School Personnel Survey will be administered soon. Survey participation is voluntary, but we strongly encourage participation in the surveys to provide schools with critically important data to help guide prevention and intervention strategies. The surveys will open on Monday, November 7, 2022, and remain open through Friday, March 17, 2023. The survey links are provided below.

Please note that the [Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\)](#) requires that schools notify parents/guardians about the student survey and give them the option to opt out if so desired. Georgia Student Health Survey questions should be made available for review by parents/guardians and other parties upon request.

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) approves “passive” parental consent on the Georgia Student Health Survey which allows parents to “opt out” of survey participation by returning a signed consent form to the school. Of course, local school systems that wish to use "active" parental consent may certainly do so. Sample passive consent letters and the survey questions are available on our [GSHS webpage](#) to the right of your screen under “Related Documents”.

Surveys links to our survey participation webpage are available below. The survey participation webpage will help you monitor survey participation rates for each of your schools.

Families please click on the link below to take this short survey:

Georgia Parent Survey

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/parents>

These link below will be shared with your student at school if they would like to participate:

Georgia Student Health Survey – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (grades 3-5)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/elementary>

Georgia Student Health Survey - MIDDLE SCHOOL (grades 6-8)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/middleschool>

Georgia Student Health Survey - HIGH SCHOOL (grades 9-12)

<https://gshs.gadoe.org/highschool>

Senior Class Officers



The Georgia Academy for the Blind is pleased to announce the officers for the class of 2023:

Class officers are DaQuan Brown (President), Ian Bullock (Vice-President), Zaria Bouphe (Secretary), and Kayleigh Littlejohn (Treasurer). This year, our graduating class consists of 12 students who are eagerly awaiting all the exciting things their senior year has in store for them.

School Council 2022-2023



The 2022-2023 GAB Student Council is off to a great start this year! Our student body elected Devin, Emily, Maddie, Jesse, Jermaine, Berkley, Heidei, Josie, and James. We also have a special position, Project Search Liaison, and Rickoy will serve in this advisory position. Student Council sponsor, Mr. Acree and Ms. Eckman, are very proud of the Council's efforts on their first community service project. The Council is making holiday cards for medical professionals at a local hospital to thank them for their work in our community. Stay tuned for future developments with this project!



The Festival of Trees is an annual museum exhibition that features over 40 beautiful Christmas trees decorated by local and regional designers. The exhibit is on display from November to January and can be viewed with regular museum admission. Festival of Trees represents three generations of investment in the Museum's educational programming. With generous support from our donors and volunteers throughout the festival activities, we can provide high-quality programming with affordable admission for families of Central Georgia.





High School and Middle School Art students participated in the Museum of Art and Science's Annual Festival of Trees again this year. Our tree design was entitled "A Sense of Christmas" because the season includes so many senses other than just sight. One student, Maddie, suggested that we incorporate the sense of sound. Some students created clay bells that were painted gold. We also have a speech button that one museum employee says, children have been pushing throughout the day. It is a recording of students saying, "Merry Christmas, from the high school art students, from G.A.B." Large 3D snowflakes are made from Brailled paper to incorporate a sense of touch. Most of these were spray painted gold, red, and green. It's always great to participate in the community.

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November Birthdays

11/2 Ja'Miyah

11/20 De'andre

11/2 Peyton

11/22 Terrence

11/6 Jazalyn

11/23 Angel

