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

12/15 - 10:30 Christmas Program “ELF” in the Auditorium with Student Art exhibition IEP Binder Workshop to follow in the Media CTR

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.

2/20 - Presidents’ Day Holiday

3/27 through 3/31 - Spring Break Week

5/18 - Prom Night (location TBA)

5/25 - Graduation at GAB

Beanie Boys: Mr. Fullergreen, Brayden, and Mr. Lyon

PBIS-Earn panther paws to shop the cart
Please join me in the Media Center following our Holiday Program:

IEP Binder Workshop

Come get a free binder with tabs to organize your student’s IEP

Refreshments & Prizes

DECEMBER 15, 2022

For questions contact Jennifer Minter:

478-262-3303
A message from our Superintendent

Dear Families,

This week has been rife with activity and engagement. The GAB music department under the direction of Ms. Catie Holloway was recognized by the Georgia Board of Education and invited to perform at their meeting on Wednesday. The link is included in this issue.

The Hawkins, Brown, Barfield, and Bechtel, Churchwell, Bloodsaw classes enjoyed a day at Twin Oaks Farm in Forsyth, GA. Also, we welcomed back our athletes who competed at the Tennessee School for the Blind in wrestling. Cheerleaders took part also. We had our grand student party of the season today. A few pics are included, but the big spread will be in next week’s edition and on Facebook! Remember that Holiday Spirit Week is next week. We love dressing and expressing our uniqueness! Enjoy the pictures and bragging rights.

Link for performance:

Georgia Department of Education Live Stream - YouTube

Make plans now to attend the GAB music performance of ELF on Thursday, December 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m. You will see the amazing talent of our GAB students and staff, and you will look forward to every other program that we have. We will have a short parent meeting led by Parent Mentor, Jennifer Minter immediately following the musical on Thursday, December 15.
Big News: GAB and Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency are selecting and hiring a dedicated GVRA counselor/teacher for GAB. The position is posted on GVRA’s website, and shortly we will begin interviews. GVRA has collaborated with GAB for many years prior to COVID insecurity and now a reorganization. We look forward to serving our students into transition more effectively. What a team!

Please read the minutes of the November School Council meeting. Thank you to Donna West (Tyler’s mom) for serving as President! The next meeting is in January, Friday 13, 2023. School Council is a fantastic way to know what is going on at GAB and to connect with staff and other parents!! To know and be known is essential to being part of the progress.

We invite parents and students to take part 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 supplies 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!

Today was Literary Character Day along with the Holiday student party. More characters to come....

As ever,

Cindy

“Creating a Brighter future by Working Together!”
GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND SCHOOL COUNCIL
MISSION

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.

November 4th, 2022
Georgia Academy for the Blind
2895 Vineville Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31204

Call to Order - Donna West
Recognition of Members:
Dr. Cindy Gibson
Alicia Jackson
Jon Smith
Dawn Day
Jennifer Minter     Shirley Wingfield
Katrina Thomas     Lauren Boyer
Linda Smith        Sonya Milam
Lauren Eckman      Pam Maddox
Frank Reynolds     Octavian Burch
Tyrene Neil        Mr. Collins
Kristen Applebee   Peyton Prowse
Jacinda Boudle

Recognition of Visitors None
Approval of Agenda - Approved

New Business:
Upcoming Programs

November Veterans Day Program November 11th at 10:30 am.
Fall Concert November 18th @ 10:30 am.
Thanksgiving Break November 21st – November 25th, 2022

Sports Traveling Trips

Goalball team will be traveling to St. Augustine, FL on 11/3/22 to 11/6/22 for competitions.
GAB Wrestling team will be going to Nashville, Tn 12/2/2022 to 12/4/22

Mrs. Applebee – Field Trips
Macon Art Alliance- they donated 20 pieces of Art work to GAB
AHP awards were 10/6/22-10/8/22 in Louisville, KY
Several students were honored.
Field Trip to Fiddler on the Roof.

Senior Update – Mr. Collins

Silent Auction
Choose class officers.
Cornhole tournament

Teacher Reports: Ms. Thomas reports that everything is going well.
Working on increasing our reading scores.
Red Ribbon week was a success.

Parent Reports:

Cottage Reports: Going Well!

Superintendent Report:
C buildings will be renovated. They are now in design phase, so construction is some time out from now.
Holiday Spirit Days

December 8, 2022

Thursday: Character Day -
Come dressed as your favorite literary character!

December 12-16, 2022

Monday: Candy Cane Day – Wear red and white on this day!

Tuesday: Tacky Tuesday -
Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and/or any other ridiculous holiday attire.

Wednesday: Festive Hats & Holiday Socks –
Wear your favorite holiday socks and festive hats/headgear.

Thursday: Winter Wonderland –
Come dressed in shades of blue and/or white.

Friday: Jeans and Bling - Come dressed in your favorite pair of jeans and holiday tops and/or fancy sweaters along with your favorite Christmas accessories including jewelry, bangles, bracelets, etc.

Happy Holidays and Have Fun!
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
## December Birthdays

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<tr>
<td>D’Schaun</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Kalena</td>
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<td>Xander</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Nehemiah</td>
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<td>Joshua</td>
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<td>Will</td>
<td>12/7</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
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<td>D.J.</td>
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