



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, March 24th, 2023

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



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Mark your Calendar

3/27 through 3/31 - Spring Break Week

4/3 - Piano Performance Team at 9:15 in auditorium.

4/6 - Spring Plant Sale Starts, details coming soon

4/10 - Easter Holiday



4/12 - Spring Festival between cottages 7 & 8 from 5- 8pm.

4/13 - Senior Trip

4/18 through 4/24 - SCASB Track & Field and Goalball in Austin Texas

**TBA - Spring Musical in the Auditorium at 10:30
"Junie B. Jones Jr. the Musical"**

**5/12 - School Council Meeting with Special Guest
Corlice Atkins, Estate Planning for Special Needs**

5/18 - Prom Night

5/25 - Graduation at GAB



Holidays	First and Last Day for Students
Regular School Days	Open House
Graduation TBA	Professional Learning

2023								2024																			
Jul-23		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Jan-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Feb-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 7								1	Work Days: 21									School Days: 20									
School Days: 0		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1 Holiday		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15 MLK Holiday									
21-31 Pre-planning/ PL		9	10	11	12	13	14	15			14	15	16	17	18	19	20										
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22			21	22	23	24	25	26	27										
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30	31													
		30	31																								
Aug-23		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Mar-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Apr-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 23				1	2	3	4	5	Work Days: 20						1	2	3	Work Days: 17				1	2	3	4	5	6
School Days: 22		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	School Days: 20		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	School Days: 17		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1 Open House 2 First Day of School		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16 Holiday		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	1-5 Spring Break									
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	19 President's Day Holiday		17	18	19	20	21	22	23			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
		27	28	29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
											25	26	27	28	29					28	29	30					
Sep-23		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	May-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Jun-24		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 20							1	2	Work Days: 22					1	2	3	4	Work Days: 3								1	
School Days: 20		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	School Days: 18		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	School Days: 0		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
4 Labor Day Holiday		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Graduation TBA		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	3-5 PL		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23			12	13	14	15	16	17	18			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30			19	20	21	22	23	24	25			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
											26	27	28	29	30	31				30							
Oct-23		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 20		1	2	3	4	5	6	7																			
School Days: 17		8	9	10	11	12	13	14			2	3	4	5	6	7	8			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9-13 Student Fall Break											7	8	9	10	11	12	13			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
9 & 10 Staff Holidays (10 mo.)		15	16	17	18	19	20	21												16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
11-13 GVEST PL		22	23	24	25	26	27	28			14	15	16	17	18	19	20			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
		29	30	31							21	22	23	24	25	26	27			28	29	30					
											28	29	30														
Nov-23		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 17					1	2	3	4																			
School Days: 17		5	6	7	8	9	10	11			5	6	7	8	9	10	11			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
20-24 Thanksgiving Holidays		12	13	14	15	16	17	18			12	13	14	15	16	17	18			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25			19	20	21	22	23	24	25			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		26	27	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31				23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
Dec-23		Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat			Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
Work Days: 11							1	2																			
School Days: 10		3	4	5	6	7	8	9			2	3	4	5	6	7	8			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
15 PL		10	11	12	13	14	15	16			9	10	11	12	13	14	15			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23			16	17	18	19	20	21	22			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30			23	24	25	26	27	28	29			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
18-Jan.1 Winter Holidays		31									30									30							
Sem 1 Total: Work Days =98; School Days = 86								Sem 2 Total: Work Days = 102; School Days = 94																			

We started with a reciprocal activity with Jordan sitting on the swing. It was reciprocal and structured in that I was leading the movement and setting boundaries of her role and mine. If you had been there to observe, it would have looked like play, but it was so much more. After sitting on the swing for a few minutes, we transitioned to sitting on the mat and pushing and stopping the swing together. Again, this was structured and led by me with clear boundaries and expectations. This provided her input to her hands and arms to help bring awareness to that body part. Next, I gave her input to her hands and fingers by clapping and providing 'hand hug' squeezes to further prepare her hands and arms for the preliteracy activity of exploring the book.

Jordan filled the session with smiles and giggles while learning. She helped me carry the book to Mrs. Bechtel and repeated the phrase 'so happy' as we walked in the room talking about how Mrs. Bechtel would feel about her good work. The goal of my time with her was for her sensory system to stay regulated for learning and for active engagement to take place. Her tactile exploration of the book was just the cherry on top.

This was a powerful reminder for me of the importance of providing structured sensory supports to prepare our students for learning. We start by finding what motivates and regulates each student. If I had started the session by simply sitting her at a table and handing her the book, she would have pushed the book away or off the table. We must meet our students where they are and attend to the needs they show us each day.

-Allison Hawkins, Occupational Therapist at GAB

Jordan has shown remarkable progress across many areas since she joined the GAB family in October. Shout out to everyone on her team for supporting her so well! I can't wait to see all she will accomplish during her time at GAB.



Transition Talk

Webster's Dictionary defines transition as "a change or shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another." While that definition is applicable to the work we are doing to help guide our students to successful post-secondary and life outcomes, transition still involves so much more. To be honest, Webster's definition of transition, though accurate, is still too generic of a term when it involves our students. For each student at Georgia Academy for the Blind, transition is a unique and personal journey that involves the trust, the belief, and the encouragement from all stakeholders who understand that when our students are given an honest chance, the sky is the limit. Transition is the passport our students need to travel to heights that they may never have even dared to dream about. Transition is the blank canvas waiting to be painted with the beautiful opportunities that life provides to so many others. In essence, transition is the building block of confidence and determination; the keys our students need to be successful.

It takes a village. It takes our stakeholders. It takes you, our parents and guardians to help us foster the importance of transition with your students. Transition is a continuous work that although arduous, when it is time to harvest the fruits of our labor, everyone succeeds. Please enjoy the pictures of some of our WBL and Project SEARCH students gaining valuable work and social skills at a few of our community jobsites. We would like to thank them for taking a chance on our students and recognizing the value in all we do. We would also like to send a special "thank you" to our newest community partners Dr. Hodges and Dr. Ferguson, at Critter Fixer!

Transitionally yours,
Alicia M. Jackson
Principal of Transition





GAB

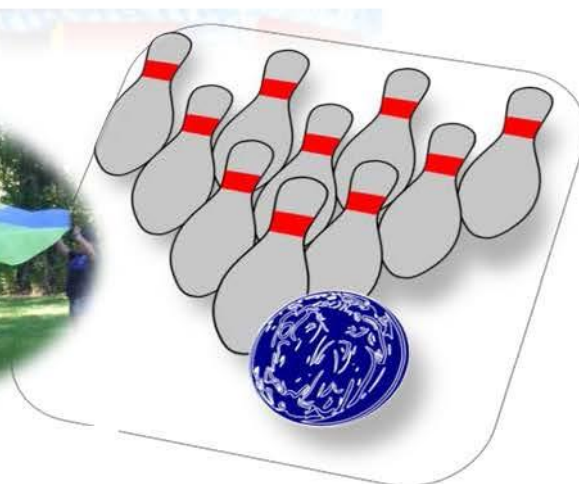
“Magical Evening Celebration”

Hello Parents

Please come out and enjoy an evening of fun, food and entertainment with your child and the GAB family.

When: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Where: GAB Campus> Between Cottage (7) & (8)



Camp Abilities Columbus

Camp Abilities Columbus GA at Columbus State University (CSU) is a non-profit (501c) organization for children that are blind or visually impaired. Camp Abilities Columbus, GA is a **residential camp that will be open for a maximum of 16 campers, ages 9 to 18 years old who are blind or visually impaired.** They will stay on Columbus State University's campus to engage in an array of sports and recreational activities in a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. Sports and recreational activities include: goalball, beep baseball, beep kickball, tandem biking, rock climbing, swimming, soccer, tennis, track & field and team building activities. Camp Abilities Columbus GA will be held **May 26 - May 29, 2023.**

Contact Us

Contact Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert
at wert_jeanine@columbusstate.edu for information
regarding camp registration & volunteer infor-

CAMP ABILITIES



COLUMBUS, GA

“A LOSS OF SIGHT, NEVER A LOSS OF VISION.”

GenCyber Cybersecurity Summer Camp

For High School Students with Visual Impairments



- No Cybersecurity Experience Needed
- Free for All VI Students
- All Meals & Lodging Provided
- Transportation Assistance



June 4 –9, 2023
Huntsville, Alabama
The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Apply:

tinyurl.com/gencyber2023vi

Contact:

GenCyber@uah.edu



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2023 S.E.E. Camp H2O YMCA Camp Hanes, King, NC | Contact Chris Flynt at cflynt@ifbsolutions.org or 336-245-5620

Registration is now open! Click the camp name above for more information about activities, eligibility, and registration.

Sunday, June 18 - Friday, June 23, 2023

Free | Co-Ed Residential | Rising 7th - 10th grade

S.E.E. Camp H2O is an overnight camp for kids who are blind or visually impaired, and who are looking for a traditional camp experience. Camp Hanes offers a wealth of activities—from climbing and kayaking to archery and ropes courses—and we'll do our best to keep things challenging, accessible, and fun. This will be a blended camp: S.E.E. Campers will have their own cabins, counselors, and schedule, but will also join in some activities with campers with typical vision

Middle Georgia GLRS and RESA presents



Middle Georgia GLRS Transition Resource Fair



Saturday, April 29, 2023
9 am -12 pm

Roy H "Sonny" Watson Health Science Building
80 Cohen Walker Drive Warner Robins, Ga 31088



Post-Secondary Resources



Community Agencies



Q & A time to ask questions

This event is designed to provide students with disabilities, their families, or guardians with resources for transitioning from school into the community

For additional information, contact the Middle GA GLRS Transition Consortia:

Larissa Beecher

478-988-7170

lbeecher@mgresa.us

GET READY

for Opportunities in Work

(GROW)

Come join us for a week-long employment exploration experience! While enjoying activities on our campus at Roosevelt Warm Springs and living in our dorms, you will engage in activities that will prepare you for your goals after high school.

Activities Include:

- Tour post-secondary programs in our community
- Visit the seven Career Pathways offered at RWS
- Learn about CASAS testing for Juniors and Seniors
- Develop a Transition Resource Toolkit
- Participate in cookouts and recreational activities
- Complete Vocational Assessments to determine your strengths and interests
- Tour community industry virtually and in-person

Dates Available:

June 5-9

June 12-16

June 19-23

June 26-30

July 10-14

July 17-21



Basketball Court



Camp Dream Lake



Bowling

GVRA



ROOSEVELT
WARM SPRINGS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL GVRA FIELD COUNSELOR
1-844-367-4872

GAB Families,

Please click on the link below or scan the QR code to take the survey.

This survey is for parents of students with an IEP. It helps give feedback about your child's education.

First Question: Answer— State Schools

Second Question: Answer—Georgia Academy for the Blind

[FY23 Parent Survey \(gadoe.org\)](https://gadoe.org/fy23-parent-survey)



March Birthdays

Zy	3/4	BJ	3/28
Destiny	3/14	Sammy	3/29
Ja'Mikel	3/17	Noble	3/31

