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NEWS RELEASE

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Bonaire Elementary Named 2009 Georgia School of Excellence



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Bonaire Elementary School** has been named a **2009 Georgia School of Excellence in Student Achievement**. State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox announced 27 Schools of Excellence today, chosen from each Congressional District for showing the greatest improvement or highest achievement across the state.

Bonaire Elementary was named a School of Excellence for placing in the top ten percent in the state for reading and mathematics. Bonaire had 98 percent of all students meet and exceed standards on the state assessment. One of only 14 elementary schools selected statewide, Bonaire was the highest achieving school in the 8th Congressional District. This is the second time Bonaire has received School of Excellence designation, having also won the title in 1991.

“We are truly honored to be recognized as a 2009 Georgia School of Excellence,” said Principal Dr. Eric Payne. “This award validates the vision, commitment and expectations we have for all of our students. Our Bonaire Elementary family, consisting of our students, staff, parents and community, all contribute to the success of our school. I am very fortunate to be associated with such hardworking, dedicated individuals who enjoy working with children and give all they have to meet the needs of our students.”

The Georgia Department of Education uses reading and mathematics assessments to identify one public school in each Congressional District in the top 10 percent and one school that has made the greatest continuous gains in student achievement over three years. In order to be considered for the recognition, a school must also:

- meet Adequate Yearly Progress for a minimum of three consecutive years;
- meet or exceed state mean scores in science and social studies;
- not be considered a “Persistently Dangerous School” under the No Child Left Behind Act; and
- be in existence for at least five years.



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The 2009 Schools of Excellence will be honored at an annual banquet on Feb. 5, 2009, at the Georgia International Conference Center. Twenty-three Houston County schools have been named a Georgia School of Excellence for a total of 36 awards since 1986.

Bonaire Elementary is located at 101 Elm Street in Bonaire. Principal Payne may be contacted at eric.payne@hcbe.net or (478) 929-7826.

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NOTE: Bonaire Elementary Principal Dr. Payne is pictured.