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NEWS RELEASE

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Lake Joy Elementary Named 2010 Georgia School of Excellence



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Lake Joy Elementary School** has been named a **2010 Georgia School of Excellence in Student Achievement**. State Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Barge announced 22 Schools of Excellence (SOE) today, chosen from each Congressional District for showing the greatest improvement or highest achievement across the state. Every SOE will receive a \$1,000 check from Georgia Natural Gas to be used however desired.

Lake Joy Elementary Principal Dr. Doug Rizer said, “We are excited and pleased to be chosen as a Georgia School of Excellence. It is an honor to represent Houston County and to continue our school system’s tradition of excellence.” He added, “I would personally like to thank our teachers, staff members, parents, and other stakeholders who helped make this goal achievable. As we move forward, we will continue to set goals and have high expectations for our students as we help build a system that is world class.”

Lake Joy Elementary was named a School of Excellence for placing in the top 10 percent in Georgia for reading and mathematics. On state tests, 98 percent of Lake Joy students met/exceeded standards for reading and 96 percent met/exceeded standards for math. One of only 12 elementary schools selected statewide, Lake Joy was the highest achieving school in the 8th Congressional District.

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.



Twenty-three Houston County schools have been named a Georgia School of Excellence for a total of 37 awards since 1986. Lake Joy Elementary is located at 985 Lake Joy Road in Warner Robins. Principal Rizer may be contacted at douglas.rizer@hcbe.net or 478-971-2712.

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