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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Congratulations to Houston County’s Teachers of the Year**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County schools have chosen their 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year. The honorees will be recognized at the system’s Opening Session on July 25, 2011, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter’s Miller–Murphy-Howard Building in Perry. The 2011-2012 Houston County Teacher of the Year and four finalists will be announced for the first time at Opening Session.

Each school has its own selection process. To select the systemwide winners, an educator from outside of the system evaluated the school-level nominees' written applications. After this preliminary judging, 10 semi-finalists were selected for one-on-one interviews with a panel of out-of-system judges consisting of personnel with experience in the educational field. After an intensive and lengthy review of written applications and face-to-face interviews, the judges selected the top five teachers. The four finalists and the systemwide Teacher of the Year who will remain a surprise until announced on July 25.

Congratulations Teachers of the Year! The 10 semi-finalists for the systemwide Teacher of the Year are marked with an asterisk.

**2011 - 2012 Houston County Teachers of the Year**

Matt Arthur Elementary.....	Robin Bradley
Bonaire Elementary.....	Danny Watt
Bonaire Middle.....	Suzanne Batdorf
Centerville Elementary.....	Regina Watson
Eagle Springs Elementary.....	Amy Myers
Feagin Mill Middle.....	Chris Shumway
Hilltop Elementary.....	Karen Jones
*Houston County Career Academy.....	Jimmie Fouts*
Houston County Crossroads Center.....	Angela Karros
Houston County High.....	Laurie Beck
Huntington Middle.....	Rodney Johnson

MORE

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Kings Chapel Elementary .....	Florrie Cunningham
*Lake Joy Elementary .....	Stephanie Melvin*
*Lake Joy Primary .....	Kathryn Grayson*
*Lindsey Elementary .....	Natalie Fleming*
Linwood Elementary .....	Sara Kany
Miller Elementary.....	Tanya Swygert
Morningside Elementary.....	Crescendel Moss
*Mossy Creek Middle .....	Charissa Grubbs*
Northside Elementary .....	Marie Clements
Northside High .....	Jennifer Dykes
Northside Middle .....	Kenneth King
Parkwood Elementary .....	Katherine Wyatt
David Perdue Elementary .....	Tonya Barfield
David Perdue Primary .....	Gina Ernst
Perry High .....	Debra Anderson
Perry Middle .....	LeSan Kimbrough
Perry Primary .....	Stacey Watson
*Quail Run Elementary .....	LaShanda Latimore*
Russell Elementary.....	Kendra Hudson
Shirley Hills Elementary .....	Mildred Whitley
*Pearl Stephens Elementary .....	Monique Dawsey*
Thomson Middle .....	Ronald Williams
Tucker Elementary .....	Kim Taylor
*Veterans High .....	Steve Atkins*
Warner Robins High .....	Cassie Brown
*Warner Robins Middle .....	Rebecca Oakley*
*Westside Elementary .....	Kenneth Hammond*

The 2010-2011 Houston County Teacher of the Year was **Beth Sciarro** from Northside Elementary School. The 2010-2011 top systemwide finalists (in no particular order) were:

- ★ Ms. Larissa Beecher, Bonaire Elementary School;
- ★ Ms. Laura Sanders, Hilltop Elementary School;
- ★ Ms. Demetria Thomas, Feagin Mill Middle School; and
- ★ Mr. Wally Shaw, Houston County High School.

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