



Shirley Hills Elementary Named National Blue Ribbon School

Shirley Hills Elementary School has been named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). Based on student performance, the DOE chose 304 schools for this award. Shirley Hills Elementary is one of nine schools chosen in Georgia and one of only three Title I schools in our state. Congratulations Shirley Hills Elementary!

Perry Middle Wins National FCCLA Awards

Perry Middle School students Cassy Chaney, Ashley Long and Rebekah Gamundi competed in national STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) events at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America's 2011 National Leadership Conference. Cassy (pictured) won Gold, and Ashley and Rebekah brought home Silver.



Perry High Culinary Arts Program Earns Industry Certification

Perry High School's Culinary Arts Program has achieved industry certification. The program is certified by the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission's Secondary Certification Committee. Ashley Adams (left) and Ashley Wright are pictured.

Student Art Featured in Calendar

Congratulations to Warner Robins High student Haley Brudnicki on the selection of her beautiful artwork to grace the cover of our 2011-2012 school system calendar! Check out the monthly calendar that features our students' art.



Message from the Superintendent

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend Veterans High on the outstanding memorial concert presented Sept. 11. The Veterans Wind Symphony, directed by Mr. Tom Brown, and the Valdosta State Wind Symphony put on a moving performance. I was very proud of our students! And I cannot

say often enough how much we appreciate our military, fire fighters and police officers!

The Veterans High music program is one example of the many fine arts offerings we have in our schools. Our music and art teachers do an awesome job of complementing our academic classes and enriching the education our students receive.

Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to all of our Teachers of the Year, especially to Mrs. Rebecca Oakley, seventh-grade teacher at Warner Robins Middle, who was named our 2011-2012 Houston County



School System Teacher of the Year. At our Opening Session, six Employees of the Year and 38 Teachers of the Year (TOTY) were honored. Our top five TOTY finalists were also announced for the first time, including Mrs. Oakley.



Learn about the proposed E-SPLOST to support our schools.

SAT Scores for 2011

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Students Recognized for Youth Apprenticeship Program Success

The Houston County Board of Education and its Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) partners recognized 10 students who completed the program and secured employment in field. A reception was held prior to the August 9, 2011, Board meeting. Don't miss the YAP video posted online to our YAP Web page within the Teaching and Learning Department.



Schools and Legislators Celebrate Constitution Day



Three elementary schools welcomed special guests to help celebrate Constitution Day, which is Sept. 17. Three State Representatives spoke to fifth grade classes, reaching a total of about 325 children. They discussed the importance of our Constitution and the vision of our Founding Fathers when they gathered in Philadelphia and produced a charter to promote justice and preserve liberty. Many thanks to Sen. Ross Tolleson, Rep. Larry O'Neal and Rep. Buddy Harden!

Mrs. Flesher Elected as GAEL Treasurer

Mrs. Cindy Flesher, Executive Director for Elementary Operations, was elected Treasurer of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL). GAEL is a statewide educational leadership composed of six professional affiliate associations for school leaders: Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals; Georgia Association of Middle School Principals; Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals; Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors; Georgia School Superintendents Association; and Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education. Congratulations Mrs. Flesher!



VHS Book Drive for Classroom Libraries



The Veterans High English Department is holding a book drive to collect books for classroom libraries. Veterans High students and community members are asked to help by donating books. Titles are suggested, but all high school level books will be gladly accepted.

Support the Houston County Sharks!



[Click here for the team schedule.](#)



Classes of 2012 Graduate May 25 & 26

Commencement ceremonies for 2012 for the Houston County high schools will be held Friday, May 25, 2012, and Saturday, May 26, 2012. All ceremonies will be held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building. A total of six ceremonies will be held.



Free Adult Computer Classes Offered

The Houston County School System is offering basic computer classes free of charge to our adult community again this school year. The classes are taught by employees and students who volunteer. All classes are taught from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday evenings at various schools throughout the school year. For more information or to register, please call the central office at 478-218-7523, ext. 10523.



The **mission** of the Houston County School System is to produce high-achieving students. Our **vision** is that our system will be world class.