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NEWS RELEASE

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Two from Houston County Named High Performance Principals



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Two Houston County principals have been honored as 2008 **High Performance Principals**. Paulette Tompkins from Kings Chapel Elementary School and Keith Lauritsen from Russell Elementary School were among 112 Georgia principals named by Governor Sonny Perdue and State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox. High Performance Principals are recognized for dramatic improvements in student achievement in their schools.

Senate Bill 468 created “High Performance Principals” during the 2006 General Assembly to celebrate excellent school leaders. Criteria used to identify possible High Performance Principals are:

- ✓ **Data.** The data must show that a principal led improvement at a low-performing school or brought a good school to a higher level.
- ✓ **Longevity.** The principal must have been assigned to his or her school for at least three consecutive years.
- ✓ **Recommendation.** The principal must be recommended for the designation by his or her school system.

Kings Chapel Principal Tompkins commented, “Our entire school community deserves this award. Our teachers and parents have worked tirelessly to ensure success for every child at Kings Chapel Elementary. Our students have the greatest attitudes and come to school each day eager to learn. I am proud to be a part of such an exceptional school.”

Russell Principal Lauritsen stated, “This is a great honor, and I am deeply grateful. I am so proud of our teachers, staff, parents, and students for making this possible. They are the ones who do all the work, and it is their commitment to excellence that makes Russell succeed year after year. It is wonderful to be a part of the Houston County School System because we are given all the resources we need to accomplish our goals each year.”

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In a press release from the Office of the Governor dated July 9, 2008, Governor Perdue stated, "These outstanding educators have fostered school environments that are conducive to student achievement. As I have often said, it is important to keep score, measure results and then recognize success. These principals have excelled in their efforts, and I am pleased to honor them with the designation of High Performance Principal."

Superintendent Cox was quoted in the same release. "As a teacher for 15 years, I know the huge impact a great principal can have on a school," she said. "Year after year, our High Performance Principals have been getting the job done by empowering teachers, engaging parents and inspiring students."

For more information, Lauritsen may be contacted at keith.lauritsen@hcbe.net or (478) 929-7830 and Tompkins may be contacted at paulette.tompkins@hcbe.net or (478) 988-6273.

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NOTE: Photos are provided of the Houston County 2008 honorees.