

# FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

July 13, 2012

**SENT VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL TO [bjlerles@dljt.com](mailto:bjlerles@dljt.com)**

Mr. William R. Jerles, Jr.  
Daniel, Lawson, Tuggle & Jerles, LLP  
912 Main Street  
P.O. Box 89  
Perry, Georgia, 31069-0089

Re: Multiple Constitutional Violations in Houston County Schools

Dear Mr. Jerles:

Thank you for your prompt letter responding to the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and our local complainant's concerns about unconstitutional graduation prayers. It is encouraging to hear that Houston County School District "intends to follow the law" on the matters we brought to your attention.

Given the significant media coverage of our letters, several local residents complained of additional constitutional violations occurring in Houston County School District (HCSD). We pass these violations on to you for prompt correction. Unfortunately, given the virulent and hostile response our initial letters received, we have to withhold any details that could possibly identify our complainants. One response we received from a Warner Robins resident mentioned "sticking guns in your mouths and blowing the backs of your god damn heads off." We understand that HCSD would never condone such a response. We mention it only to emphasize our inability to provide details in all cases.

As General Counsel for HCSD we hope you will help HCSD comply with the Constitution and fix the following violations:

- I. In addition to prayers at graduations, we have been informed that prayers frequently occur in school and/or at school events. We understand that teachers and other school employees often lead, participate, or ask students to pray.**

Official school prayers are unconstitutional in any context

We have reports of prayers at assemblies and ceremonies (including ceremonies other than graduations), and we are concerned that they may occur in other school contexts as well. The Supreme Court has continually struck down formal and teacher or school-led prayer in public schools. *See, e.g., Abington Township Sch. Dist. v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203 (1963) (declared devotional Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools unconstitutional); *Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962) (declared prayers in public schools unconstitutional); *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577 (1992) (ruled prayers at public high school graduations unconstitutional); *Wallace v. Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38 (1985) (overturned law requiring daily "period of silence not to exceed one minute ... for meditation or daily prayer."); *Jager v. Douglas County Sch. Dist.*, 862 F.2d 825 (11th Cir. 1989), cert. den., 490 U.S. 1090 (1989) (holding pre-game invocations at high school football games unconstitutional). In all of the aforementioned cases, the federal courts struck down prayer in public schools because it constitutes a government-endorsement of religion, which violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Prayer at athletic events and employee/teacher participation in prayers is unconstitutional

Prayers at public school athletic events violate the First Amendment; as does school employee participation in independent, student-led prayer. *See Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 308 (2000)(struck down a school policy that authorized students to vote on whether to hold a prayer at high school football games). *See also Borden v. Sch. Dist. of the Township of East Brunswick*, 523 F.3d 153 (3rd Cir. 2008), *cert. denied*, 129 S.Ct. 1524 (20092)(declaring the coach’s organization, participation and leading of prayers before football games unconstitutional); *Doe v. Duncanville Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 70 F.3d 402(5th Cir. 1995)(declaring basketball coach’s participation in student prayer circles an unconstitutional endorsement of religion). *See, e.g., Bd. of Educ. of the Westside Cmty. Sch. v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226, 253 (1990)(indicating that public school faculty may not participate in any student-led religious meetings); *Culbertson v. Oakridge Sch. Dist.*, 258 F.3d 1061 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2001)(held a school district policy allowing teachers to distribute religious literature violated the Establishment Clause because it creates an impression of school endorsement of religion).

If prayers are occurring at athletic events, such as football games, they must stop. Teachers and coaches are prohibited from participating in any spontaneous prayer by students as well.

Prayers at school board or other official school meetings are unconstitutional

We understand that meetings of individual school councils within HCSD sometimes begin with an “inspirational message” and that this message often takes the form of a prayer. These councils are comprised of principals, teachers, and parents. According to the minutes, which are often cursory, prayers were given at the following meetings, *see* Enclosure #1:

- David A. Perdue School Council Meeting - 10/9/2011
- Feagin Mill Middle School Council Meeting - 9/6/2011
- Perry Middle School Council - 8/23/09, 11/29/10, 1/31/11, 5/12/11, 8/22/11, 1/30/12, 4/9/2012
- Thomson Middle School Council - 2/7/12 - A teacher “read a passage from the Bible, Matthew 10:29”

It appears that even when a secular message is delivered for the inspirational part of the agenda, a prayer is given anyway. *See* Enclosure #2. We think it likely that this practice is more widespread in HCSD than the minutes confirm.

In addition to consistently striking down the prayers mentioned above, federal courts strike down religious rituals, such as prayer, at school board meetings. *See Doe v. Indian River School District*, 653 F.3d 256 (3d Cir. 2011); *Coles v. Cleveland Bd. of Educ.*, 171 F.3d 369 (6th Cir. 1999) (finding that a school board’s practice of opening its meetings with prayers violated the Establishment Clause); *Bacus v. Palo Verde Unified Sch. Dist.*, 52 Fed. Appx. 355, (9th Cir. Cal. 2002) (finding that a school board violated the Establishment Clause in allowing prayers “in the name of Jesus”).

*Indian River* emphasized that school board prayer is analogous to other school prayer cases because of the need to protect children from the “coercive atmosphere,” that is heightened in the context of public schools. 653 F.3d 256, 281. In that case, the court held that school board meetings have “an atmosphere that contains many of the same indicia of coercion and involuntariness that the Supreme Court has recognized elsewhere in its school prayer jurisprudence.” *Id.* The court’s “decision [was] premised on careful consideration of the role of students at school boards, the purpose of the school board, and the principles underlying the Supreme Court’s school prayer case law.” *Id.* The court concluded that school board prayers “[rose] above the level of interaction between church and state that the Establishment Clause permits.” *Id.* at 290.

In striking down the board's prayers in *Coles*, the Sixth Circuit found prayers at school board meetings to be squarely within the context of school prayer cases. The court noted, "although meetings of the school board might be of a 'different variety' than other school-related activities, the fact remains that they are part of the same 'class' as those other activities in that they take place on school property and are inextricably intertwined with the public school system." 171 F.3d 369 at 377. Therefore, prayer at public school board meetings is no different than a prayer given at other school district events and is unconstitutional. Given this precedent we think it clear that prayers at school council meetings are unconstitutional as well. They should cease immediately.

It is unconstitutional for school districts to ask, suggest, or encourage its employees to pray

It is our understanding that the administration also encourages public employees to pray. For instance, in the Morningside Elementary 2008-2009 Standards Assessment Report, "Teachers are also encouraged to participate in secret pal, Relay for Life team activities, *prayer group*, and a weight loss support group." See Enclosure #3. The government may not encourage its employees to pray any more than it may encourage its citizens.

James Madison, the author of the First Amendment, wrote, "An *advisory* Government is a contradiction in terms. The members of a Government as such can in no sense, be regarded as possessing an advisory trust from their Constituents in their religious capacities."<sup>1</sup> Madison's observation is even more fitting when applied to employees of the government, such as teachers. The school board, administration, and principals may not encourage or suggest that teachers pray, go to church, or join a prayer group.

Teacher attitudes are problematic

It appears that some teachers are proud of violating the Constitution. In one Facebook comment about FFRF's original complaints, Perry High School teacher Susan Bray admitted, "we (the teachers) did hold hands and have a prayer around the kids. It was lovely." See Enclosure #4. This is a direct violation of the Constitution. See *above*; see also *Doe v. Duncanville Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 70 F.3d 402, 406 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995) ("if while acting in their official capacities, [school district] employees join hands in a prayer circle or otherwise manifest approval and solidarity with the student religious exercises, they cross the line between respect for religion and the endorsement of religion.") It is clear that HCSD teachers need additional training on the boundaries of the Establishment Clause.

**II. We have reports of school employees in their official capacities and official school district materials inculcating students with ideas about Jesus and God and/or proselytizing at school, on school time, or at school events.**

In addition to explicit prayers, it is our information that school employees and materials often cross the constitutional line. It is well settled that a public school or public school employee may not advance or promote religion. See generally, *Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577; *Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38; *Epperson v. Ark.*, 393 U.S. 97 (1967); *Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203; *Engel*, 370 U.S. 421. The following are examples of HCSD endorsing religion in violation of the Constitution.

School Mottos and Alma Maters

The Warner Robins High School *alma mater* begins, "On the city's eastern border, led by God's great hand, Proudly stands our Alma Mater, dearest in the land." See Enclosure #5. The clearly expresses and endorses a belief in a guiding God. The endorsement of religious belief over unbelief is unconstitutional. See *Schempp*, 374 U.S. at 216 ("this Court has rejected unequivocally the contention that the Establishment Clause forbids only governmental preference of one religion over another."); *Everson v.*

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<sup>1</sup> James Madison, *Detached Memoranda* (ca. 1823) (emphasis added).

*Board of Ed.*, 303 U.S. 1, 18 (1947) (The First Amendment “requires the state to be a neutral in its relations with groups of religious believers and non-believers.”); *Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock*, 489 U.S. 1, 27-28 (1997) (the “government may not favor religious belief over disbelief.”); *Jaffree*, 472 U.S. at 52-54 (“interest in forestalling intolerance extends beyond intolerance among Christian sects — or even intolerance among ‘religions’ — to encompass intolerance of the disbeliever and the uncertain.”).

### Summer Reading Recommendations

The HCSD “Summer Reading Program Grades 9-12” “provid[es] a list of texts as a resource for parents and students to use when choosing reading selections. Students may use the recording form to note their reading, and this form can be turned into their English–Language Arts teacher during the first week of school.” See Enclosure #6. Included on this list is Tim LaHaye, a fundamentalist Baptist preacher’s, *Left Behind* series, which HCSD describes:

The horrors of the Tribulation are over, and *Jesus Christ has set up his perfect kingdom on earth. Yet evil still lurks in the hearts of the unbelieving.* A gripping thriller that captures the anxiety and fear that interpretations of Revelation often inspire. *Contains religious themes.*

This description equates “unbelieving” with “evil.” HCSD is using its official power to inform 25% of its students that they are evil and will not partake of Jesus Christ’s “perfect kingdom.”<sup>2</sup> This description is deeply troubling and the recommendation itself is unconstitutional.

The description’s disclaimer, “Contains religious themes,” puts the case far too mildly. LaHaye’s “series of gory apocalyptic thrillers”<sup>3</sup> often feature anti-Catholic, anti-secular, and anti-Jewish themes. The books abound with gratuitous violence, in one passage Jesus Christ rips open the bodies of “the enemies of God,” forcing a Christian character “to concentrate on missing craters and *keeping from hitting splayed and filleted bodies of men and women and horses.*”<sup>4</sup> The central theme of the books is that faithful Christians are saved from the shattered world they have “left behind” to the Anti-Christ. LaHaye has been accused of plagiarism, hardly a role model for students.<sup>5</sup>

LaHaye actively advocates “biblically based education,”<sup>6</sup> and has admitted that he desires to infiltrate the public school system and subvert the Constitution. He would “like to see you join me [LaHaye] in prayer that God would let us wrestle control of the American school system from the secularists, the anti-Christians and anti-Americans that want to bend the minds of our children.”<sup>7</sup> In recommending this poorly written series HCSD is endorsing LaHaye’s fundamentalist religious fervor and takeover ideology. HCSD must stop recommending this overtly religious, anti-Catholic, and anti-Semitic series to its young, impressionable students.

We have had reports of teachers assigning other inappropriate religious reading materials to students as part of their curriculum. Mrs. Baker’s Resource page Perry High School website links to “The Holy Bible King James Version.” See Enclosure #7. Even the selection of this version over other versions, such as the Catholic canon, expresses an endorsement.

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<sup>2</sup> American Religious Identification Survey 2008, Trinity College.

<sup>3</sup> Rachel Donadio, “Faith-Based Publishing,” *The New York Times*, Nov. 28, 2004

<sup>4</sup> Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, *Glorious Appearing*, 208 (Tyndale House, 2011).

<sup>5</sup> Carl Olsen, “Recycled Rapture” available at <http://archive.catholic.com/thisrock/2001/0109fca3.asp>

<sup>6</sup> Tim LaHaye remarks to Council for National Policy’s Policy [sic] Counsel [sic] (Oct. 2, 2010) available at [www.cfnp.org/Document.Doc?id=173](http://www.cfnp.org/Document.Doc?id=173).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

### Academic Bowl

In a November 30, 2011 news release, HCSD announced winners of an academic bowl and provided six examples of questions including:

In the Old Testament, it is the number of elders Moses was told to gather in front of the congregation. In the New Testament, it was the number of men Jesus ordained to go out in pairs and help the twelve apostles preach the gospel. Give this two-digit number that Jesus also used when the apostles asked him how often they had to forgive people. *See Enclosure #8.*

This question, asked to middle school students, was not a math question but an “English/language arts” question. The question clearly favors religious students and cannot be answered without an intimate knowledge of Christian scripture, the devotional teaching of which is prohibited in public schools. If this is being taught in HCSD classes it is a serious constitutional violation that must cease; if it is not being taught, why expect an answer if not to favor religious students?

Both individually and overall, the effect of these violations is to ostracize school children: “[s]chool sponsorship of a religious message is impermissible because it sends the ancillary message to members of the audience who are nonadherents ‘that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community and accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community.’ ” *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 309-10 (2001)(*quoting Lynch v. Donnelly*, 465 U.S. at 668)(O’Connor, J., concurring). Religion is divisive and inculcating religion to schoolchildren is prohibited for just that reason.

### **III. We have been informed that religious imagery is often displayed in schools and classrooms.**

Recently Dr. Traci Jackson, Principal of Shirley Hills Elementary School (SHES), removed a bible quote from her official biography on the SHES website:

Daily Biblical Quote: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7. All things are made possible by the Lord; all things are made more beautiful by faith. *See Enclosure #9.*

This encouraging change is in keeping with the First Amendment and we hope the trend will continue in HCSD. We have been informed that religious imagery, such as bible quotes, appears on school property (including websites). Bible quotes, crosses, Ten Commandments, and pictures of Jesus may not be displayed in a public school.

Courts have continually held that public schools may not display religious messages or iconography. *See, generally, Stone v. Graham*, 449 U.S. 39 (1980) (ruling that the Ten Commandments may not be displayed on classroom walls); *Lee v. York County*, 484 F.3d 689 (4th Cir. 2007) (ruling that a teacher may be barred from displaying religious messages on classroom bulletin boards); *Washegesic v. Bloomington Public Schools*, 813 F. Supp. 559 (W.D. Mich. 1993), affirmed, 33 F. 3d 679 (6th Cir. 1994) (ruling that a picture of Jesus may not be displayed in a public school). There is no educational or academic component or motive for such displays; their presence is proselytizing a captive audience.

All such displays must be removed. If the Warner Robins High School *alma mater* is displayed in the public school it too must be removed until it is re-written in a way that does not endorse religious belief.

#### **IV. We have been informed that there are several student religious clubs in HCSD.**

Religious clubs, such as “Prayer Clubs,” Fellowships of Christian Athletes, and Good News Clubs have been formed in HCSD elementary, middle, and high schools. As you are no doubt aware, under the Equal Access Act, teachers are not permitted to participate in the activities of non-curricular clubs. Violations of this rule jeopardize the federal funding the school. “Under the [Equal Access] Act, however, faculty monitors may not participate in any religious meetings, and nonschool person[s] may not direct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.” See *Bd. of Educ. of the Westside Cmty. Sch. v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226, 253 (1990). The Court continued, “[m]oreover the Act prohibits school ‘sponsorship’ of any religious meetings... which means that school officials may not promote, lead, or participate in any such meeting.” *Id.* Given the proud participation of teachers in unconstitutional prayers and the administration’s encouragement of prayer, it is appropriate to remind teachers, particularly those sponsoring religious clubs, of Equal Access Act restrictions.

#### **V. We have been informed that there are troubling instances of schools partnering with churches.**

It is inappropriate for a public school to foster a close partnership with a church. Such relationships could cause young school children to believe that the school district endorses the religious beliefs of the participating churches. This type of entanglement is unseemly and problematic under *Lemon* and, as we have already mentioned, public schools may not advance or promote religion. See generally, *Santa Fe* 530 U.S. 290; *Weisman* 505 U.S. 577; *Jaffree*, 472 U.S. 38; *Epperson*, 393 U.S. 97; *Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203; *Engel*, 370 U.S. 421.

There are three school-church partnerships that raise serious constitutional concerns because of the appearance of endorsing religion: baccalaureate services, tutoring partnerships with churches, and support of vacation bible schools.

Warner Robins High School solicited students’ participation in a Baptist baccalaureate service at Central Baptist Church. The flier, presumably given to all students, did not mention that the service was optional and students were told to “be there by 2:27pm. Service beings at 3:00pm, *Bring your cap & gown!*” See Enclosure #10. This announcement appeared along with the date and time of the senior yearbook signing, the date and time of graduation practice, and the graduation time and requirements. The graduation notice was strikingly similar, though less enthusiastic (it contained no italics or exclamation points), to the baccalaureate service notice: “Be there by 11:57am with your cap & gown.” Warner Robins High School mandated participation in the religious service. Public schools should not solicit student involvement in or endorse religious ceremonies — that must be left to churches.

HCSD and its schools frequently advertise tutoring services at churches. For instance, Northside High School advertises for tutoring at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church and First Baptist Church. See Enclosure #11. We also understand that several teachers teach Vacation Bible School during the summer and that HCSD has provided free meals “during Vacation Bible School at participating churches.” See Enclosure #12. These close relationships entangle the school district with churches and, in the case of providing free meals to vacation bible school students, provide direct aid for religious instruction in violation of the First Amendment. Children must not be forced to pray or attend proselytizing events in order to be fed.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

To insist on neutrality is not hostility. In the words of one federal court, “To insist that the government respect the separation of church and state is not to discriminate against religion; indeed, it promotes a

respect for religion by refusing to single out any creed for official favor at the expense of all others.” *Am. Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts v. Sebelius*, 821 F. Supp. 2d 474, 488 (D. Mass. 2012). All we ask is that Houston County Schools uphold the Constitution and children’s rights of conscience.

The public school Establishment Clause obligation does not exist to foster hostility towards religion; the obligation exists because “the preservation and transmission of religious beliefs and worship is a responsibility and a choice committed to the private sphere.” *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 310 (2001)(quoting *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. at 589). School-aged children are a captive audience. They are young, impressionable, and vulnerable to social pressure, particularly pressure exerted from a position of authority. Religious education is not the province of the public schools—those who think otherwise should imagine the preceding violations as fostering Islam or Judaism instead of Christianity. Such instruction usurps the authority of parents.

The Houston County Board of Education needs to set a better example. Claims that “God puts people in the right place...” undermine the wall of separation between state and church and the Board’s authority to enforce the wall. *See* Enclosure #13.

It is clear that there is a systemic lack of adherence to and respect for the First Amendment in Houston County Schools. Indeed some employees even seem proud to violate the Constitution our founders worked so hard to draft. Extensive corrective measures, including training of all HCSD employees and administrators on the proper boundaries of the Establishment Clause, are imperative. We urge you to commence such action immediately. May we hear from you at your earliest convenience, in writing, on the actions Houston County Schools are taking so that we may inform our district complainants that these egregious violations are being remedied?

Sincerely,



Andrew L. Seidel  
Attorney  
Freedom From Religion Foundation

Enclosures

1. School Council Prayers
2. Feagin Mills Middle School Council prayer November 15, 2011
3. Morningside Elementary 2008-2009 Standards Assessment Report encouraging teachers to pray
4. Perry High School teacher Facebook post
5. Warner Robins High School *alma mater*, from WRHS handbook
6. Tim LaHaye as recommended summer reading
7. School website linking to “The Holy Bible King James Version”
8. Academic Bowl question
9. Daily “biblical quote” from principal bio
10. Baccalaureate services flier
11. Fliers advertising tutoring partnership with churches
12. Evidence that HCSD is paying for students meals at Vacation Bible Schools
13. Houston County Board of Education News Release (Feb. 10, 2012)

## Enclosure #1

Evidence of school council prayers



# Minutes of School Council Meeting

The structure of the minutes of a meeting of the school council should reflect the agenda of the meeting.

David A. Perdue School Council  
October 19, 2011

The David A. Perdue School Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at 6:00 P.M., in the DPES Media Center, 115 Sutherlin Road, Warner Robins, Georgia, 31088.

## **School Council Members Present:**

- \*Shawn Carpenter – Principal
- \*Sonja Jenkins – Parent/business
- \*Laura Schofield – Parent
- \*Lisa Yang – Parent/Business
- \*Paula Brightman - Parent
- \*Matthew Shultz – Teacher
- \*Tammy Jenkins – Teacher

**School Council Members Absent:** none

Seven (7) **members were present, representing a quorum.**

**The following visitors attended the meeting:** none

## **1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Shawn Carpenter – Principal called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

## **2. Inspiration**

Mrs. Carpenter delivered the inspirational prayer.

## **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Carpenter led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. It was enthusiastically joined by the other members of the council.

## **4. Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Carpenter distributed the agenda posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Council moved through and completed the New Business per the agenda.

- a. *Review Roles and Responsibilities of the School Council and its members; set dates for 2011-2012 meetings and times.*

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# Minutes of FMMS School Council Meeting

Feagin Mill Middle School Council  
September 6, 2011

The Feagin Mill Middle School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 8:06 a.m. in Room 103 at FMMS, 1200 Feagin Mill Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088.

## **School Council Members Present:** (list members present)

Dr. Jesse Davis, Principal  
Melissa Bourke, Faculty  
Brian Lewis, Faculty  
Joe Matchette, Parent  
Dr. Eric Harrison, Parent Businessperson  
Sonya Jenkins, Parent Businessperson  
Linda Rydholm, Parent

**School Council Members Absent:** None

**All members were present, representing a quorum.**

**The following visitors attended the meeting:** None

## **1. Call to Order**

Dr. Davis called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

## **2. Inspiration**

Dr. Davis said a word of prayer for the inspirational message.

## **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Davis led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

## **4. Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Davis distributed the agenda posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

The School Council approved the agenda as presented.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

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The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, August 23, 2010 at 6:30PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Thomas Moore	Todd Barker
Hoke Morrow	Susan Eubanks
Jeff Carroll	

Council Members absent:

Jennifer Mashburn  
Donna Brown

**1. Call to order**

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Hoke Morrow led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Moore led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

There were no visitors present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Moore asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Hoke Morrow made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Todd Barker. All were in favor to accept the agenda (5-0).

**6. Old Business**

- a.) Approval of the minutes of the April 26, 2010 meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Moore to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Susan Eubanks. All were in favor to accept the minutes from April 26, 2010 (5-0).

The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, November 29, 2010 at 7:00PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Todd Barker	Jennifer Mashburn
Hoke Morrow	Donna Brown
Jeff Carroll	

Council Members absent:

Thomas Moore  
Susan Eubanks

**1. Call to order**

Hoke Morrow called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Todd Barker led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Hoke Morrow led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

There were no visitors present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Hoke Morrow asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Hoke Morrow made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Jeff Carroll. All were in favor to accept the agenda (5-0).

**6. Old Business**

a.) Approval of the minutes of the August 23, 2010 meeting.

Motion was made by Jeff Carroll to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Todd Barker. All were in favor to accept the minutes from August 23, 2010 (5-0).

The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 7:00PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Todd Barker	Jennifer Mashburn
Thomas Moore	Donna Brown
Jeff Carroll	Susan Eubanks

Council Members absent:

Hoke Morrow (Hoke arrived at 7:15 for the meeting)

**1. Call to order**

Todd Barker called the meeting to order at 7:07PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Susan Eubanks led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Todd Barker led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

There were no visitors present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Todd Barker asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Thomas Moore made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Donna Brown. All were in favor to accept the agenda (6-0).

**6. Old Business**

- a.) Approval of the minutes of the November 29, 2010 meeting. Motion was made by Jeff Carroll to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Thomas Moore. All were in favor to accept the minutes from November 29, 2010 (6-0).

The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Thursday May 12, 2011 at 6:30PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Todd Barker	Jennifer Mashburn
Thomas Moore	Donna Brown
Jeff Carroll	

Council Members absent:

Hoke Morrow  
Susan Eubanks

**1. Call to order**

Thomas Moore called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Thomas Moore led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Thomas Moore led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

Dr. Gay Nelson

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Thomas Moore asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Jeff Carroll made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Donna Brown. All were in favor to accept the agenda (5-0).

**6. Old Business**

- a.) Approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2011 meeting.  
Motion was made by Jeff Carroll to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Donna Brown. All were in favor to accept the minutes from January 31, 2011 (5-0).

The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, August 22, 2011 at 6:30PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Melissa Lee	Jennifer Mashburn
Thomas Moore	Mandy Gibson
Susan Eubanks	Angela Ford

Council Members absent:

Todd Barker

**1. Call to order**

Thomas Moore called the meeting to order at 6:46PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Thomas Moore led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Thomas Moore led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

No visitors were present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Thomas Moore asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Jennifer Mashburn made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Melissa Lee. All were in favor to accept the agenda (6-0).

**6. Old Business**

- a.) Approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2011 meeting. Motion was made by Jennifer Mashburn to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Melissa Lee. All were in favor to accept the minutes from May 12, 2011 (6-0).

The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6:30PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Melissa Lee	Jennifer Mashburn
Thomas Moore	Mandy Gibson
Angela Ford	

Council Members absent:

Todd Barker  
Susan Eubanks

**1. Call to order**

Thomas Moore called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Thomas Moore led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Angela Ford led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

No visitors were present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Angela Ford asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Mandy Gibson made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Melissa Lee. All were in favor to accept the agenda (5-0).

**6. Old Business**

- a.) Approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2011 meeting.  
Motion was made by Melissa Lee to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Thomas Moore. All were in favor to accept the minutes from October 17, 2011 (5-0).



The Perry Middle School Council met in regular session on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 6:30PM in the Media Center.

School Council Members present:

Melissa Lee	Jennifer Mashburn
Thomas Moore	Mandy Gibson
Todd Barker	Susan Eubanks

Council Members absent:

Angela Ford

**1. Call to order**

Mandy Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

**2. Inspiration**

Thomas Moore led the Council in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mandy Gibson led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Recognition of Visitors**

No visitors were present.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Mandy Gibson asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Thomas Moore made motion to accept the meeting agenda. It was seconded by Melissa Lee. All were in favor to accept the agenda (6-0).

**6. Old Business**

a.) Approval of the minutes of the January 30, 2102 meeting.

Motion was made by Susan Eubanks to accept the minutes.

This was seconded by Jennifer Mashburn. All were in favor to accept the minutes from January 30, 2012 (6-0).

Enclosure #2

Feagin Mills Middle School Council  
prayer November 15, 2011

# FEAGIN MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Home of the Wolves!!!*

1200 Feagin Mill Rd.  
Warner Robins, GA 31088  
478-953-0430  
Fax# 478-953-0438

**Dr. Jesse W. Davis, Principal**  
**Olethia M. Thomas, Assistant Principal**  
**Michelle Burk, Counselor**

**James E. Langley, Assistant Principal**  
**Jason Smith, Athletic Director**  
**Betty Jo Lane, Counselor**

Feagin Mill Middle School Council  
November 15, 2011

The Feagin Mill School Council met in regular session on Tuesday, 11/15/11, 8:02 a.m., Room 103, 1200 Feagin Mill Rd Warner Robins, GA 31088.

**School Council Members Present:** Sonya Jenkins, Dr. George Harrison, Joe Matchette (telephone), Linda Rydholm, Brian Lewis, Melissa Bourke, Dr. Jesse Davis, Mr. Jim Langley, and Mrs. Kae Harrison.

**School Council Members Absent:** Mr. Matchette was physically absent but met with the School Council by telephone conference call.

Nine members were present, representing a quorum.

The following visitors attended the meeting: (list visitors)

## 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Jenkins called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

## 2. Inspiration

Chairperson Jenkins delivered the inspirational message. She read the poem, Unity, aloud in order to celebrate the idea of parents, teachers, and administration working together as a team. ]

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Jenkins led the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and provided an opening prayer. ]

## 4. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Jenkins distributed the agenda posted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the school council approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Dr. Harrison; Second: Mrs. Rydholm.



## Enclosure #3

Morningside Elementary 2008-2009  
Standards Assessment Report  
encouraging teachers to pray



## Morningside Elementary

### Standards Assessment Report

#### Introduction & Purpose of Report

Welcome to the AdvancED Standards Assessment Report.

The Standards Assessment Report is designed to serve as a valuable self-assessment and as a tool to help schools prepare for their Quality Assurance Review. The report is based on the AdvancED standards, which serve as the foundation of the accreditation process. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, schools must meet the AdvancED standards, engage in a process of continuous improvement, and host a Quality Assurance Review at least once every five years.

The Standards Assessment Report engages the school community in an in-depth assessment of each of the seven AdvancED standards. In completing the report, the school identifies the data, information, evidence, and documented results that validate that it is meeting each standard. This self assessment helps the school identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.

The Standards Assessment Report also serves as the primary resource for the Quality Assurance Review Team, which uses the report to prepare for the visit to the school. The team uses insights gathered from the report and information obtained during the on-site visit to provide feedback to the school and to make an accreditation recommendation.

#### Structure of the Report

The Standards Assessment Report is designed for online completion. This Microsoft Word version has been streamlined for easy viewing and sharing. This streamlined version includes two sections: 1) indicators rubric and 2) focus questions.


The indicators rubric enables the school to assess the degree to which practices and/or processes are in place that indicate adherence to the standard and indicators. For each indicator, the school may check if the practices and/or processes are highly functional in the school, operational, emerging, or not evident. The school should use the rubric as an opportunity to ask itself challenging questions and to respond with accurate answers geared toward self-improvement. After completing the rubric, the school can quickly see areas of strength and opportunity. The section asks, "To what degree are the noted practices/processes in place?"

The focus questions allow the school to expand on and think more deeply about the responses to the indicators rubric. The focus questions provide an opportunity for the school to describe the systematic and systemic processes that are in place to support its ability to meet the indicators. The section asks, "How are the practices/processes implemented?"

New administrators assigned to Morningside are carefully considered through a rigorous interview process. Administrators undergo continuous professional learning in an effort to improve and to support teaching staff. Administrators are evaluated through surveys conducted by teachers. These surveys act as an on-going assessment and a driving force in the focus of the administrative team. In addition, administrators at Morningside are monitored and evaluated by school leaders at Central Office.

Evaluations at Morningside are conducted at a variety of levels. One level of observation is the formal Georgia Teacher Observation Instrument (GTOI) conducted by administrators during classroom visits. Other levels of evaluation are the "5-10 minute walk throughs" in which the principal, assistant principal for instruction, and literacy coach briefly visit classrooms to observe specific teaching strategies and monitor classroom environments. Classroom observations are frequently done by peers followed by discussions that allow teachers the benefit of learning from each other. Summative annual evaluations are conducted by the building principal in a professional conference with each certified and classified staff member.

At Morningside, teacher retention is promoted by support of veteran teachers during the induction period and continuous professional development. Teachers participate in Team Time, a time when teachers come together to share ideas and strategies, common grade-level planning times, SOAR Awards (awards for teachers who have gone above and beyond), and end of year retreat participation.

School morale has increased by teachers at Morningside working together as a team for both academic pursuits and teacher support. For example, once a month pay-day treats are provided by the different grade levels and staff. Teachers are also encouraged to participate in secret pal, Relay for Life team activities, prayer group, and a weight loss support group. 

**2. How does the leadership ensure that the allocation of financial resources is supportive of the school's vision, educational programs, and its plans for school improvement?**

Morningside Elementary is a Title I school. Morningside receives financial support through state and Title I federal funds. The allocation of funds is based on Morningside's school improvement plan. Each teacher is allocated funds for classroom supplies. The grade level works as a team to determine the best use of allocated funds. Teachers (grade levels) submit requests to the Principal and Assistant Principal for Instruction based on grade level needs, curriculum needs, and school improvement needs. A teacher "Needs and Wants" list is maintained in the office for teachers and grade levels. In all instructional consideration, the school's vision and school improvement plan are the driving force for any purchases made.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sets fund-raising goals each year to support programs as designated by the school improvement plan. In addition, the PTO allocates monies for each classroom teacher to purchase books through the book fair to enhance classroom libraries. Fundraisers include the Fall Festival, two coke sales, and merchandise fundraisers.

## Enclosure #4

Perry High School teacher Facebook post



Susan Gonzalez Bray · Works at Perry High School

Well Kent, I was there and the music was great and we (the teachers) did hold hands and have a prayer around the kids. It was lovely.

Reply · Like · 5 minutes ago

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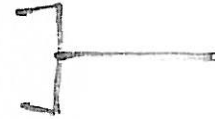
Enclosure #5

Warner Robins High School *alma mater*  
from the Warner Robins High School  
student handbook



WARNER ROBINS HIGH SCHOOL  
**ALMA MATER**

*On the city's eastern border,  
Led by God's great hand,  
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,  
Dearest in the land.*



*We will ever sing thee praises,  
Striving without fail,  
Here's to thee our Alma Mater,  
Robins High All Hail!!*

----- Cut Here -----

**Student Information Card**

Rockin R Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Father's workplace \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's workplace \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## Enclosure #6

Tim LaHaye's *Left Behind* series as  
recommended reading



### Realistic Fiction

- Madison, B., *Lulu Dark Can See Through Walls* \*\*\*\*  
When someone steals her purse and her identity, high-school junior and reluctant girl sleuth Lulu Dark investigates.
- Lubar, D., *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie* 560L  
During his first year of high school, Scott loses friends and gains some unlikely new ones as he hones his skills as a writer.
- Werlin, N., *The Rules of Survival* 660L  
Matthew recounts his attempts to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.
- McDaniel, L., *Rama's Story* 690L  
After sixteen-year-old Raina learns that she is a perfect match for donating bone marrow to a leukemia patient, she discovers that the young woman is the sister she never knew she had.
- Koss, *Side Effects* 760L  
Izzy's shares about the pain, fear, and comedy of her life. Contains mild language and death.
- Pfeffer, S., *Life As We Knew It* 770L  
Miranda's family struggles to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.
- Dessen, S., *The Truth About Forever* 840L  
The summer following her father's death, Macy plans to work at the library and wait for her bratty boyfriend to return from camp, but instead she goes to work at a catering business where she makes new friends and finally faces her grief.
- Picoult, J., *My Sister's Keeper* 840L  
Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate.
- Anderson, J.L., *Peaches* 850L  
Three teen girls from different backgrounds, thrown together to pick peaches in a Georgia orchard, spend a summer in pursuit of the right boy, the truest of friends, and the perfect peach. Contains some sexual themes.
- Klass, D., *Home of the Braves* 870L  
Eighteen-year-old Joe, captain of the soccer team, is dismayed when a hotshot player shows up from Brazil and threatens to take over both the team and the girl whom Joe hopes to date. Contains scenes with hazing and some violence.
- Caletti, D., *Honey, Baby, Sweetheart* 900L  
In the summer of her junior year, sixteen-year-old Ruby McQueen and her mother, both nursing broken hearts, set out on a journey to reunite an elderly woman with her long-lost love and in the process learn many things about "the real ties that bind" people to one another. Contains some language and sexual references.
- Staples, S. F., *Under the Persimmon Tree* 1010L  
During the 2001 Afghan War, the lives of Naimal, a young refugee from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and Nusrat, an American-Muslim teacher who is awaiting her husband's return from Mazar-i-Sharif, intersect at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.
- Lett, B., *Where the Heart Is* 950L  
Noveale, seventeen, pregnant, and living in a Wal-Mart discovers friendship, encouragement, direction and love with a group of caring people in Oklahoma. Contains sexual themes.
- Romance**
- Cabot, M., *Jinx* 760L  
Sixteen-year-old Jean "Jinx" Honeychurch, the descendant of a witch, must leave Iowa to live with relatives in Manhattan after the first spell she casts goes awry, but she will have to improve her skills to stop her cousin from practicing black magic that endangers them and the boy they both like. Contains some mild language and suicidal themes.
- Dessen, S., *This Lullaby* 820L  
Remy, a master at getting rid of boyfriends before any emotional attachments form, finds herself strangely unwilling to free herself from Dexter, a messy, disorganized, impulsive musician who she suspects she has come to love.

Moriarty, J., *The Year of Secret Assignments* 890L  
Three female students from Ashbury High write to three male students from rival Brookfield High as part of a pen pal program, leading to romance, humiliation, revenge plots, and war between the schools.

### Popular Series Books

- Westerfeld, S., *Uglies series* 860L  
Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like. Book in this series include the following: *Uglies, Pretties, Specials, and Extras*
- Paolini, C., *Eragon series* 710-1050L  
In Agastia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into a tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. Books in this series include the following: *Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr*
- Meyer, S., *Twilight series* 720L  
In this suspenseful tale, 17-year-old Isabella moves to a small town in Washington State and gets more excitement than she bargained for when she falls for an enigmatic classmate -- who happens to be a vampire. Books in this series include the following: *Twilight, New Moon, Breaking Dawn, and Eclipse*. Some books in the series contain sexual themes.
- Riordan, R., *The Lightning Thief series* 740L  
Percy, expelled from six schools for being unable to control his temper, learns the truth from his mother that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, and is sent to Camp Half Blood where he is befriended by a satyr and the demigod daughter of Athena who join him in a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.
- Funk, C. C., *The Inkheart series* 780L  
Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.
- Cast, P.C., *House of Night series* 850L  
The series is set in a world very much like our own, except in 16-year-old Zoey's world, vampires have always existed. Books in this series include the following titles: *Marked, Betrayed, Chosen, Untamed*
- Lahaye, T., *Left Behind series* 860L  
The horrors of the Tribulation are over, and Jesus Christ has set up his perfect kingdom on earth. Yet evil still lurks in the hearts of the unbelieving. A gripping thriller that captures the anxiety and fear that interpretations of Revelation often inspire. Contains religious themes.
- Canfield, J., *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul series* 930L  
A collection of essays that offer inspiration to teens, providing lessons on relationships, friendship, family, love and kindness, learning, death, success, courage, and determination.
- Cabot, M., *Princess series* 1010L  
Presenting a heroine, Mia, aka Princess Amelia Mignonette Grimaldi Thermopolis Renaldo! She is "every-girl-suddenly-becomes-a-princess", and the chronicles of her misadventures are fast becoming modern classics. Contains mild language and some sexual themes.
- Patterson, J., *Maximum Ride series* 720L  
While on a mission to Antarctica to save the world from global warming, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride and the other members of the Flock--a band of genetically modified children who can fly--are pursued by their creator, the Uber-Director, who wants to auction them off to the highest bidder. Many of the books in this series contain violence.
- Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter series* 940L  
Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches. Many of the books in this series contain grim violence and witchcraft.
- Horowitz, A., *The Alex Rider series* 670L  
Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. Contains some violence.

## Enclosure #7

School endorsing the “The Holy Bible  
King James Version”



# Perry High School

Home Schools Departments System



HOUSTON COUNTY

Home > Schools > Perry High School > baker\_links




Administration | Boosters | Counselors | Departments | Office Staff | PHS Alumni | PHS Home

## Ms. Baker's Resource Page

New Links as of 8/18/2008

- ☛ Alumni
- ☛ Athletics
- ☛ Bus Route
- ☛ Curriculum, Ga.
- Performance Standards
- ☛ Directions to PHS
- ☛ Extracurricular
- ☛ GADOE Report Card
- ☛ Lunch Menu
- ☛ Media Center
- ☛ Mission / Beliefs
- ☛ Panther Football History
- ☛ Parents
- ☛ Principal's Message
- ☛ School Council
- ☛ School Information
- ☛ Schoolwide Title I Plan
- ☛ Student Handbook
- ☛ Student Information
- ☛ Student Links
- ☛ Student Portal Links
- ☛ Teachers Links
- ☛ Testing

<a href="#">American Rhetoric Speeches</a> <a href="#">Historic Documents in American</a> <a href="#">American Transcendentalism</a> <a href="#">American Transcendentalism Poetry</a> <a href="#">GHGWT</a>	<a href="#">Online Rhyming Dictionary</a> <a href="#">Poetry 180</a> <a href="#">Poets.org</a> <a href="#">How To Explicate a Poem</a> <a href="#">Poetry Reading Rubric</a> <a href="#">Imagination Prompts</a>
<a href="#">Rhetorical Devices</a> <a href="#">Literary Terms and Titles</a> <a href="#">Literary Terms</a> <a href="#">More Literary Terms</a> <a href="#">Even More Literary Terms</a> <a href="#">Study Strategies</a>	<a href="#">200 Greek and Latin Words</a> <a href="#">Bloom's Taxonomy</a> <a href="#">Weekly Reader</a> <a href="#">Random Prompt Generator</a> <a href="#">HOIS Questions</a> <a href="#">Plot Creator</a>
<a href="#">National Geographic Salem</a> <a href="#">The Crucible Study Guide</a>	<a href="#">Native American Poetry &amp; Songs</a> <a href="#">Colonial American 1607-1783</a>
<p>Great Books Online</p> 	

[The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn](#)

[Moby Dick the Whale](#)

[The Scarlet Letter](#)

[The Red Badge of Courage](#)

[The Fall of the House of Usher](#)

[The Last of the Mohicans](#)

[O Pioneers!](#)

[The Holy Bible King James Version](#)

[Ethan Frome](#)

[A Narrative on the Life of Frederick Douglass](#)

[Walden Pond](#)

[The Sword of Antietam](#)

[The Call of the Wild](#)

[The Wonderful Wizard of Oz](#)

[Little Women](#)

[Uncle Tom's Cabin](#)

[My Antonia](#)

[Rabbit](#)

[The Adventures of Tom Sawyer](#)

[The Secret Garden](#)

[20,000 Leagues Under the Sea](#)

[The Sea Wolf](#)

[The Pioneers](#)

[The House of Seven Gables](#)

**Ms. Baker's Favorites**

# 1 [Pride and Prejudice](#)

[Sense and Sensibility](#)

[The Age of Innocence](#)

[A Room With a View](#)

[Northanger Abby](#)

[Wuthering Heights](#)

[Vanity Fair](#)

[Nicholas Nickleby](#)

[Mansfield Park](#)

[Madame Bovary](#)

[Jane Eyre](#)

[Emma](#)

[Daisy Miller](#)

[Bleak House](#)

[Anna Karenina](#)

[Animal Farm](#)

[The Count of Monte Cristo](#)

[Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde](#)

[Dracula](#)

[The Picture of Dorian Gray](#)

[The Man in the Iron Mask](#)

[The Three Musketeers](#)



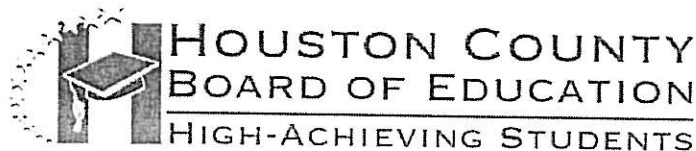
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Houston County Board of Education: 1100 Main Street, P.O. Box 1850, Perry, GA 31069  
Telephone: (478) 988-6200



## Enclosure #8

Houston County Board of Education  
press release regarding the academic  
bowl



DR. JAMES R. HINES, JR., SUPERINTENDENT

DR. CHARLES M. (TOBY) HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN  
HELEN HUGHES  
DR. MARIANNE MELNICK

BOARD MEMBERS  
TOM WALMER, CHAIRMAN

SKIP DAWKINS  
JIM MADDOX  
FRED WILSON

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 30, 2011**

(Release #2011/12 - 174)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, [Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net](mailto:Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net)

### **Middle School Teams Advance to Regional Academic Bowl District Winners ~ FMMS, HMS, PMS & TMS**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County's eight middle schools competed in the district academic bowl on Nov. 15, 2011. The four top teams were Feagin Mill, Huntington, Perry and Thomson. These teams next compete in the regional Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Academic Bowl for Middle Grades on Jan. 7, 2012, at Feagin Mill Middle.

Students fielded questions on subjects ranging from history to mathematics, science, literature and the performing arts. The questions are developed using the Georgia curriculum. Students answer toss-up and bonus questions to score points. Sample questions from the competition follow. (Answers are provided at the end.)

1. Social studies - The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution gives six specific reasons for which the Constitution was ordained and established, one of which was to "establish justice." Name any four of the other five reasons. To get credit, you must give the specific phrase word-for-word.

2. Math - Pencils and paper ready! Give the four consecutive multiples of six that add up to 132.

3. English/language arts - In the Old Testament, it is the number of elders Moses was told to gather in front of the congregation. In the New Testament, it was the number of men Jesus ordained to go out in pairs and help the twelve apostles preach the gospel. Give this two-digit number that Jesus also used when the apostles asked him how often they had to forgive people.

4. Science - The old idea that if you had two of them, you were more likely to become a criminal has been proven false. It contains about 58 million base pairs of DNA, including the gene that forms the reproductive system in males. Identify this sex chromosome that literally makes a man a man, as females don't have it because they have two X chromosomes instead.

5. Miscellaneous

The career leader in this category is still longtime Buffalo Bills defensive end Bruce Smith, while the single-season record holder is New York Giants defensive lineman Michael Strahan [STRAY-hann]. Give this football term, first coined by Hall of Famer Deacon Jones, for when a quarterback is tackled by the defense behind the line of scrimmage.

MORE

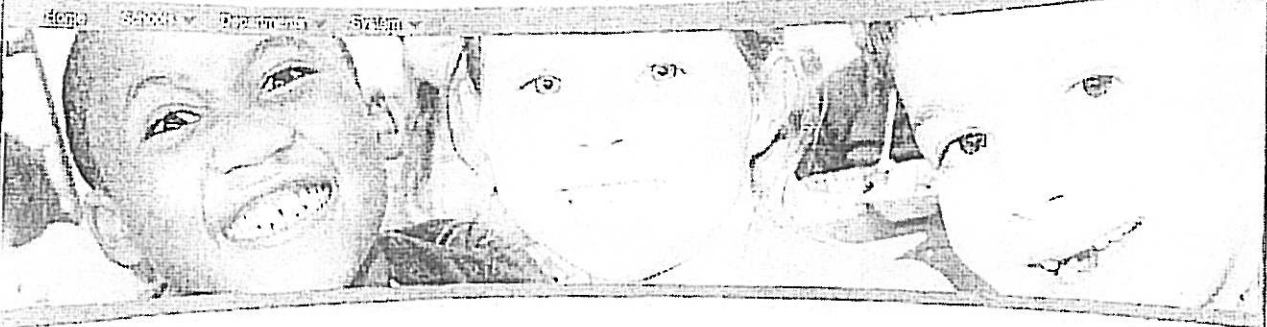
P.O. BOX 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069  
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259  
[WWW.HCBE.NET](http://WWW.HCBE.NET)

## Enclosure #9

Daily “biblical quote” from principal’s  
official biography (now removed)



# Shirley Hills Elementary School



Home

Home > Schools > Shirley Hills Elementary School > Administration

Administration | Media Center | Music Program | Office Staff | SHES Home | Teachers | Technology



## Administration

- Bus Route
- CRCT Resources
- Chorus at the Mall
- Classworks at Home
- Curriculum, Ga.
- Performance Standards
- Employee Benefits
- Extracurricular Activities
- Galileo
- Learning Links
- Lunch Menu
- Mission / Beliefs
- PTO Information
- Parent Involvement
- Professional Leave
- School Council
- School Handbook
- School Remediation
- SharePoint Portal
- Teachers Only
- Textbook Resources
- United Streaming
- Zone Map

### Principal

Dr. Traci Jackson  
e-mail [Dr. Jackson](mailto:Dr. Jackson)



Dr. Traci Jackson

Dr. Traci Jackson is a product of the Houston County School System. Dr. Jackson attended Westside Elementary, Bert Rumble Middle School, and Warner Robins High School. She has been in education for the past twenty years. Dr. Jackson attended Fort Valley State College where she was active in many clubs, cheerleading, and Honors Convocation. She reigned as Miss Fort Valley State College 85-86 and graduated Cum Laude in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and was among Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Dr. Jackson worked for the Peach County Department of Family and Children Services as a Caseworker Sr.

Dr. Jackson completed her certification and Master of Science Middle Grades Education from Fort Valley State College in 1993. She taught fourth grade in Bibb County at Springdale Elementary transferring to Houston County the next year as a fifth grade teacher at David A. Perdue Elementary School. In 1999, she graduated from the University of Georgia with leadership certification and the degree of Specialist in Education. She received her Doctorate of Educational Leadership from Argosy University/Atlanta in 2007. Dr. Jackson served as Assistant Principal for Westside, Park wood and Lindsey Elementary Schools. She was appointed to the principalship in 2002 at Shirley Hills Elementary where she currently serves. Shirley Hills Elementary School has received the School Bell Award twice for educational programs in the school and has been awarded **Title 1 Distinguished School** for the past six years. The school has made AYP for the past nine years. Shirley Hills Elementary received the 2011 Honorable Mention High Flying School Award and the school has also been nominated for the Blue Ribbon Schools Award 2010-2011. Our school is the best kept secret in Houston County. Dr. Jackson believes all students can achieve excellence regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. Everyday is a new challenge, but our faculty and staff welcome each and every challenge with a positive attitude. Our faculty, parents, students and community understand that failure is not an option. Teaching

is a calling. It is an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child. Dr. Jackson has served on numerous committees throughout her educational career. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Houston Association of Educators/Georgia Association of Educators, National Association of Educators, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and First Baptist Church Garmon Street.

Her hobbies include reading and writing good literature, aerobics, and mentoring at risk youth. Dr. Jackson is married to Clyde and they have two wonderful adult children.

Daily Biblical Quote: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7. All things are made possible by the Lord; all things are made more beautiful by faith.

#### ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR INSTRUCTION



Dr. Janet Sorrell

**Dr. Janet Sorrell**

e-mail [Dr. Sorrell](#)

Dr. Janet Sorrell loves learning and believes that a good education can make a positive difference in a child's life. Dr. Sorrell received a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University, a Masters of Arts in Teaching from Georgia College & State University, a Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Columbus State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Sorrell had a career in the middle Georgia area for several years as a certified Diabetes Educator before she began teaching in Houston County. Dr. Sorrell taught science at Northside High School for seven years before joining the Shirley Hills family.

Dr. Sorrell married her college sweetheart, David, and they have two wonderful children, Michael and Stephanie. In her spare time, Dr. Sorrell enjoys reading, quilting, and spending time with her family.

#### ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Ms. Carolyn Buford**

e-mail [Ms. Buford](#)

Carolyn S. Buford is originally from Chattanooga, TN and a product of the Chattanooga City school system. Upon completing high school, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a Fashion Merchandising degree from Bauder Fashion College. She then pursued certification in Early Childhood Education and obtained a Master of Arts from Fort Valley State University. With a greater desire to continue to serve the families of Houston County, she earned an Education Specialist degree in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University. Mrs. Buford began working for the Houston County School System in 1991. She taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Morningside Elementary School and served as a Resource Coordinator for the Pre-K Program. She began her administration career as the Assistant Principal at Shirley Hills and Russell Elementary Schools in 2005. Prior to working in the education field, Mrs. Buford worked retail management and for the Department of Defense at Robins Air Force Base.



Ms. Carolyn Buford

#### COUNSELOR

**Mrs. Lori Wallace**

e-mail [Mrs. Wallace](#)



Ms. Wallace believes that Shirley Hills Elementary is the best elementary

## Enclosure #10

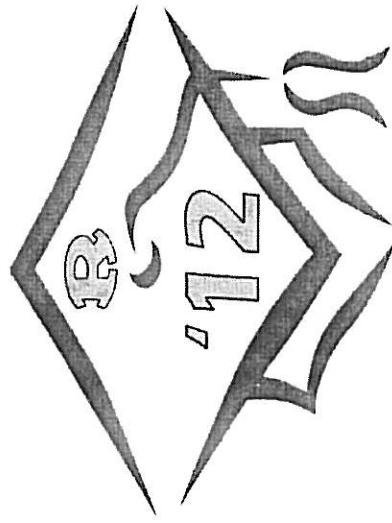
Warner Robins High School flier  
advertising baccalaureate services  
alongside mandatory graduation practice  
and graduation information

# Senior Yearbook Signing

Thursday, May 17th

Hard Rockin' Café

5:00pm - 6:30pm



Pizza & Drinks!

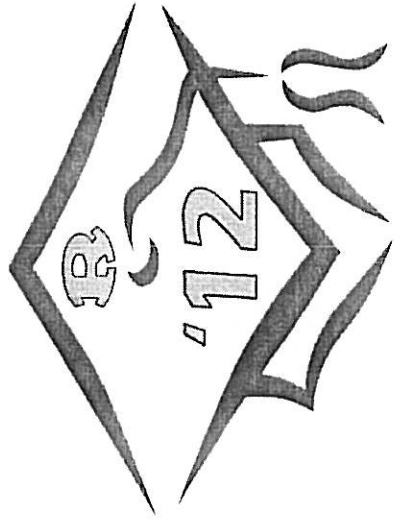
# Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 20th

Central Baptist Church

Be there by 2:27pm

Service begins at 3:00pm



Bring your cap & gown!



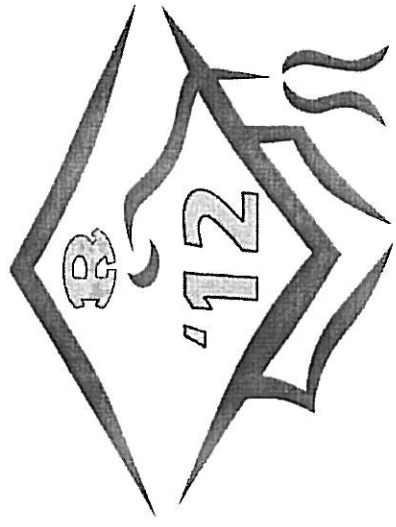
# Graduation Practice

Friday, May 25th

Miller Murphy Howard Building  
in Perry



Be there by 7:27am



Attendance is mandatory!

# Graduation

Saturday, May 26th

McGill Building in Perry to line up

Be there by 11:57am with your



cap & gown

Girls- dark dress & dark shoes (no boots, flip-flops  
or purses)

Guys- dark pants, light colored shirt, tie, dark  
shoes & clean shaven (no jeans or earrings)

## Enclosure #11

Fliers advertising tutoring partnership  
with churches



# Northside High School Parents' Corner

November —December  
2011

## Events Calendar

**October 31-Nov 4**

GHS GT Retake

**November 1st**

Progress Reports  
Issued

**November 8**

Junior Class Meeting  
6:00pm

**November 11**

Veterans Day

**November 15**

School Council  
7:00am

**November 21-25**

Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 3**

SAT Test 8:00am

**December 7**

Choral/Band Concert  
7:00pm

**December 8**

Holiday Extravaganza  
7:00pm

**December 5-9**

End of Course Tests

**December 10th**

One-Act 7pm

**December 11th**

One-Act 3pm

**December 13**

Financial Aid Night  
6:00pm

**December 19-Jan 2**

Christmas Holiday

## Parent Action Committee

NHS continues to recruit members for our PAC. The committee coordinates events that will improve student success. Contact Susan Taggart (929-7858 ext 41524) or email [susan.taggart@hcbe.net](mailto:susan.taggart@hcbe.net)

## Financial Aid Night-December 13th, 6:00pm

Representatives from Georgia State Financial Commission will conduct an information session for parents and students. The Financial aid process will be explained, as well information regarding the HOPE Scholarship. Parents and students will learn about important deadlines to apply and receive the maximum amount of financial aid. Northside Counselors will also be available to answer questions. Don't miss this important meeting!

## HELP WITH THE BIG TESTS ARE JUST A CLICK AWAY!

SAT: [www.sat.collegeboard.org](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org) (Official Website)

[www.Khanacademy.org](http://www.Khanacademy.org) (questions and video answers)

EOCT: [www.public.doe.K12.ga.us](http://www.public.doe.K12.ga.us) (left side of page)

SAT/ACT: [www.houpl.org](http://www.houpl.org) (Houston County Library)



## TUTORING-FREE-TUTORING-FREE-TUTORING-FREE-TUTORING Community Tutoring

Monday/Thursday (6-7pm)

First Baptist Church

210 Garmon St.

478-954-0678

Monday/Thursday (5-7pm)

Fellowship Bible Baptist

450 Dunbar Rd.

478-929-0828

Northside 9th Grade Tutoring

Tuesday/Wednesday 3:00-4:00pm

## Study Shows Lower Stress Leads to Higher Achievement

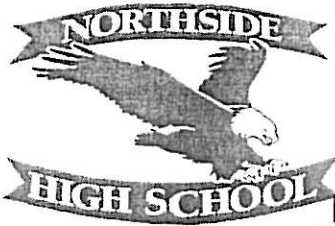
What happens at home can affect your teen's success in school. So try to keep the stress level in your teen's life pretty low. If arguments usually end in tears and yelling, try "taking 10" when you're upset. Get out and take a walk. Or simply say, "We need time to cool off. We'll talk later." Source: M. Borba,

"7 Simple & Science-Backed Ways to Boost School Success"

Not  
buying  
\$200  
sneakers,  
does not  
constitute  
Child  
Abuse  
-Jim Fay  
Love &  
Logicisms

## Students Who Are Organized Are More Prepared For Class and Get Better Grades.

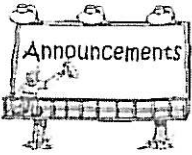
- Use a **daily planner**. Before leaving each class, she should write down exactly what she needs to have/do/study for the next time she has that class.
- Create a **to-do list** before starting homework. Encourage her to start with the most difficult assignments first and check off completed tasks.
- **Keep subjects separate**. Have your teen use a different folder for each class. (If possible, give each one its own color.) That way, her work will automatically be divided by subject.
- Use an **assignment calendar**. Give her a big calendar where she can list upcoming tests and projects. If an assignment is weeks away, she can jot down a reminder such as "Project due in one week!"



# Northside High School Parents' Corner

February-March, 2012

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### February:

- 17th-Progress Reports
- 20th-24th-Winter Break
- 28th-College Fair and Junior Night (6-7:30pm)
- 29th-GHSWT

### March:

- 1st-GHSGT Make-UP
- 1st-Seniors -Cap and Gown Pictures
- 1st-Band Concert (7pm)
- 13th-Pre-Advisement Night
- 17th- State Literary Competition (8am)
- 19th-23rd-GSHT
- 20th- Coupon Night (6:30-8:00pm)
- 29th-Mr. Northside (7pm) Ray Horne

### Parent Action

#### Committee

NHS continues to recruit members for our PAC. The committee coordinates events that will improve student success. Contact Susan Taggart (929-7858 ext 41524) or email [susan.taggart@hcbe.net](mailto:susan.taggart@hcbe.net)

### ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS!

#### Junior Night and College Fair

Tuesday Feb. 28th at 6PM

Be Ready For Your Senior Year and Beyond

Review important deadlines, testing, graduation requirements, college preparation, senior schedule and other important information, to prepare for your senior year.

Juniors Report to Theater @ 6pm

Seniors Report to Cafeteria @ 6pm

**PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**

**OVER 20 COLLEGE WILL BE ATTENDANCE!!!!**

### Have you had this conversation?

**Parent:** What kind of classes can you take at school?

**Child:** Don't have a clue, they don't tell us anything.

**School:** HUH?

#### Pre-Advisement Night

Tuesday, March 13th @ 6pm

Ray Horne Theater

Parents please plan on attending this **VERY** important information session. It is an opportunity to find out the many options that are available for your child. Find out about advanced placement classes, career tech and other options.

Is your child going to college, interested in a vocational school, or going directly into the workforce? Now is the time to start exploring these options. This meeting will provide parents with the opportunity to speak to teachers from different departments. You will receive information that will detail the programs available for your child.

Be Involved

Parents + Students + School = Success

## Know Your Child's Grades 24/7

If you have not yet set up a Smartweb account, now is the time. You can check your child's grades on-line or have them emailed directly to you! Go to: [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net) and click "Smartweb" on left hand side of screen. If you have not set up an account, click on "Register Me". You will need to have your child's Date of birth, social security number and Student ID. To have grades emailed, click "Manage Profile" on the top left corner. Enter information (email address, pass word, phone number) then select options of information you would like emailed. If you need any assistance contact Ms. Turner at 929-7858 ext 41859, or Email [mardi.turner@hcbe.net](mailto:mardi.turner@hcbe.net).

## Tutoring Available!

9th Grade Tutoring  
Tabor Academy  
3-4pm

Math 1- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
Biology-Tuesdays, Wednesdays

Fellowship Bible Baptist  
Monday and Thursday  
5-7pm  
(478-) 929-0828

First Baptist Church  
Monday and Thursday  
6-7pm  
(478)-954-0678

## Promote Good Attendance

Poor attendance is one of the first signs that a student is preparing to drop out of school. If your teen's attendance is worsening, get your teen back into the habit of going to school regularly. By keeping her in school today, you're helping her earn a living in the future.

Source: J. Amos, *Dropouts, Diplomas, and Dollars: US High Schools and the Economy*, Alliance for Excellent Education

# YOU CAN'T SCARE ME, I HAVE TEEN- AGERS

## Communicate With Teachers!

Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with questions or concerns. The best way to contact your child's teacher is via email. You can do this through the Smartweb system, or you can call the school at (478) 929-7858. Parent-Teacher communication is important for your child's success. If you need assistance, please contact Susan Taggart, 922-7858 or [susan.taggart@hcbe.net](mailto:susan.taggart@hcbe.net)

## NHS Annual Coupon Night!

Tuesday March 20th 6:30-8:30PM  
Ray Horne Theater

Come learn the secrets to saving thousands of dollars a year on things you buy. This workshop will be presented by the Macon Telegraph. Space is limited. Sign up at [www.macon.com/savingsense](http://www.macon.com/savingsense) or call (478-744-4548).

Please Visit Our Parent Resource Room— Tabor Academy  
7:30-3:00 Monday-Friday

Contact: Susan Taggart, Family Involvement Coordinator  
(478)929-7858

[Susan.taggart@hcbe.net](mailto:Susan.taggart@hcbe.net)

## Enclosure #12

Admission that HCSD is paying for students meals at Vacation Bible Schools



DR. JAMES R. HINES, JR., SUPERINTENDENT

DR. CHARLES M. (TOBY) HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN  
HELEN HUGHES  
DR. MARIANNE MELNICK

BOARD MEMBERS  
TOM WALMER, CHAIRMAN

SKIP DAWKINS  
JIM MADDOX  
FRED WILSON

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 25, 2011**

(Release #2011 - 243)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, [Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net](mailto:Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net)

### Free Meals for Children this Summer

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Children up to 18 years of age are offered free breakfast and lunch this summer June 1 through July 21, 2011. This annual program is open to any and all children. No registration is required.

Free meals will be offered at several sites to include three main sites: Morningside Elementary School, Huntington Middle School and Northside High School. Breakfast will be served Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be served 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school lunchrooms. Additional sites will be opened periodically throughout the summer such as during Vacation Bible School at participating churches.

Morningside Elementary is located at 1206 Morningside Drive in Perry. The school lunchroom number is 478-988-6264. Huntington Middle School is located at 206 Wellborn Road in Warner Robins, and the phone number is 478-542-2249. Northside High is located at 926 Green Street in Warner Robins, and the phone number is 478-929-7873.

The Seamless Summer Nutrition Program is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Education. For more information, please contact one of the school sites or call Sybrennia James, school nutrition area manager, at 478-322-3308, ext. 10990.

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free 866-632-9992. Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339 or 800-845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

###

P.O. Box 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069  
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259  
[WWW.HCBE.NET](http://WWW.HCBE.NET)



Enclosure #13

Houston County Board of Education  
News Release (Feb. 10, 2012)



DAVID CARPENTER, SUPERINTENDENT

DR. CHARLES M. (TOBY) HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN  
SKIP DAWKINS  
DR. MARIANNE MELNICK

BOARD MEMBERS  
TOM WALMER, CHAIRMAN

W. G. CLEMENTS  
HELEN HUGHES  
FRED WILSON

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

(Release #2010-70)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390 ext. 0, [Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net](mailto:Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net)

### Supt. David Carpenter Announces Retirement



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Superintendent of Schools David Carpenter** has announced his retirement effective the end of this school year, May 28, 2010. School system employees learned of his decision today, Feb. 10, 2010.

Supt. Carpenter will retire with 35 years of service with the Houston County School System. He has served as superintendent for three years, since May 2007.

Carpenter remarked, "I have always heard that you would know when it was your time to retire, and I have found this to be true. It has not been an easy decision, but I feel it is the right decision. I will continue to work as hard as I can until the day I walk out the door. There is still much work to do these next few months and I will give it my all. And I want to be on the stage to congratulate every one of our graduates in the Classes of 2010."

Chairman of the Board Tom Walmer commented, "The entire Board is grateful to have had Mr. Carpenter lead our system the past three years. God puts people in the right place at the right time, and David has definitely been the right person for Houston County. The past 18 months have been tumultuous as we have dealt with unprecedented financial issues and rezoning. David's leadership and professionalism have guided our school system through these issues while continuing to achieve our goals. He exemplifies "The Houston County Way," and we are forever indebted to him for his service not only as superintendent, but for his entire career devoted to the children of Houston County." }

Prior to becoming superintendent, Carpenter served as the executive director of elementary operations from 2004. He was principal of Eagle Springs Elementary for five years and principal of Bonaire Elementary for 13 years. In addition, he was the assistant principal at Warner Robins High for three years after teaching and coaching at Warner Robins High and Warner Robins Junior High. His degrees included an Education Specialist degree in Administration/Supervision from the

MORE

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[WWW.HCBE.NET](http://WWW.HCBE.NET)