GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

THE SCHOOL HELPER

Volume 13, Issue 2

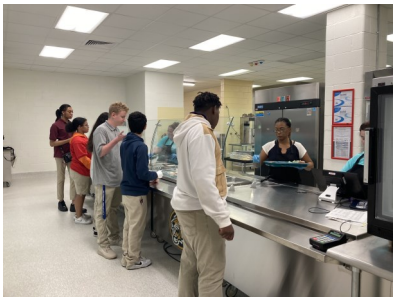
16 August 2024

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What's New at GSD?

Summer is a slower time for schools, but it is also time to make changes and get big projects done. As you may have heard, GSD has a new superintendent! Sharion Gooden, who served GSD previously as a special needs teacher, then principal, spent the summer learning about her new role from Leslie Jackson, who was selected to be the new Assistant Director of State Schools. Ms. Gooden has started the school year out with energy and building positive relationships. A letter from Ms Gooden is on the next page. Also new: GSD's Tumlin Cafeteria had renovations, especially in the kitchen. The student area also changed, however, with the line now being open to the seating area (it was formerly hidden behind a wall). The cafeteria feels more friendly and is more ASL-friendly, too!









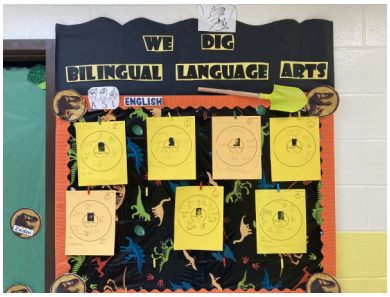
New open serving line area with the flow reversed; various pictures of students and teachers enjoying lunch.

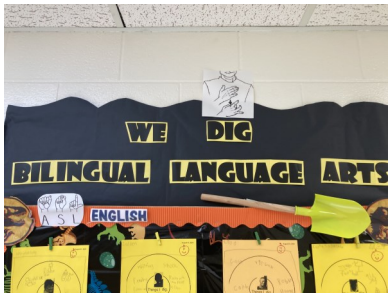




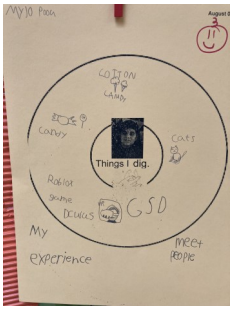


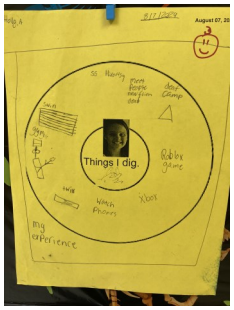
Bilingual learning is certainly not new at GSD, but it is getting a renewed boost with implementation of curricula designed specifically for Deaf students to build their skills not only in English but ASL, too! Elementary teacher Jamie Anderson's dinosaur classroom theme has students "digging" bilingual language arts (notice the ASL sign used for "dig"—it is signed "like!").





Right: Mylo and Holly's circle map about things they "dig" doing.





Sharion Gooden
Superintendent, Georgia School for the Deaf

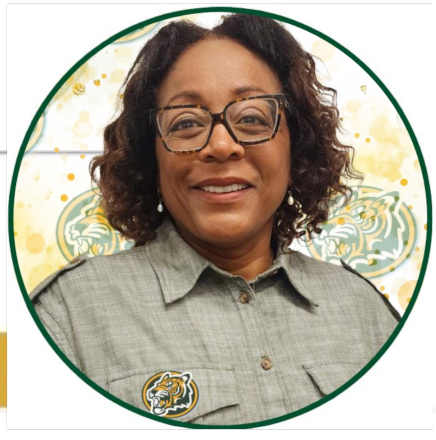
July 26, 2024

Dear GSD's Parents,

It is with great pleasure and entusiasm that I write this letter of introduction to you as the new superintendent. I am very proud to serve in this amazing capacity. I wholeheartly value the educational programs and practices that are in place at GSD, and the educational team and leadership is committed to building upon best practices for DHH students. We want to ensure that current and future students have opportunities to explore, excel and be prepared to make successful life choices.

While serving as your superintendent, I plan to be accessible to all stakeholders and make an open door communication practice. I encourage and welcome any questions, comments or concerns you have about our school and can be reached at (706) 777-2200.

Kindest Regards,
Sharion Gooden, Superintendent, Georgia School for the Deaf

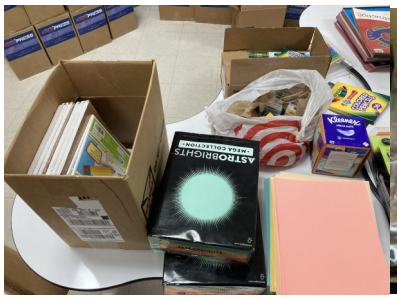


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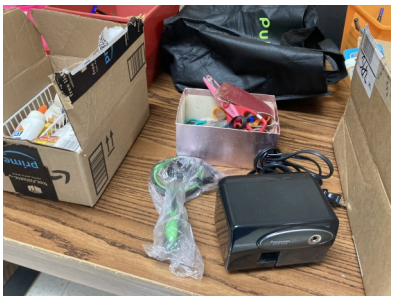
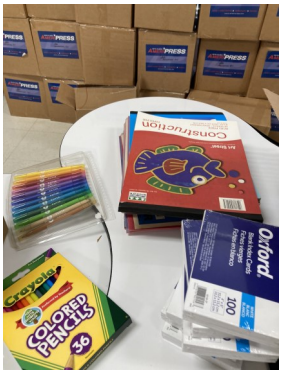


A big tiger ROAR of thanks for the Quota Club of Atlanta's continued support of our students and teachers. For several years now, the Quota Club has donated many needed supplies such as backpacks and water bottles for students and classroom supplies for teachers such as electric pencil sharpeners and colored paper. From all of us at GSD—thank you!!

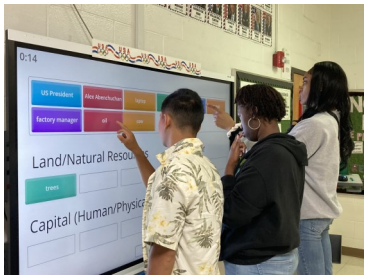



Quota members with donations; donations of paper, crayons, water bottles, notebooks, and gratitude gifts for teachers.



BB Chubb, who works on our Maintenance team, kindly helped move the supplies from cars into the building and made new friends; more supplies of sharpeners and markers; club members with donations and Marie Dickinson.





Seniors in Marie Dickinson's Economics class play a Wordwall game. They had to sort different examples into the correct productive resources category.





School Social Worker Jackie Blanchard worked with PreK student Willow on identifying emotions. Look at her expressions for happy, sad, and mad—they are perfect!!

Be sure to keep up with everything GSD this year!

Website: www.gsdweb.org

Facebook: georgiaschoolforthedeaf

Instagram: gsdtigers

YouTube: GSD Social Media

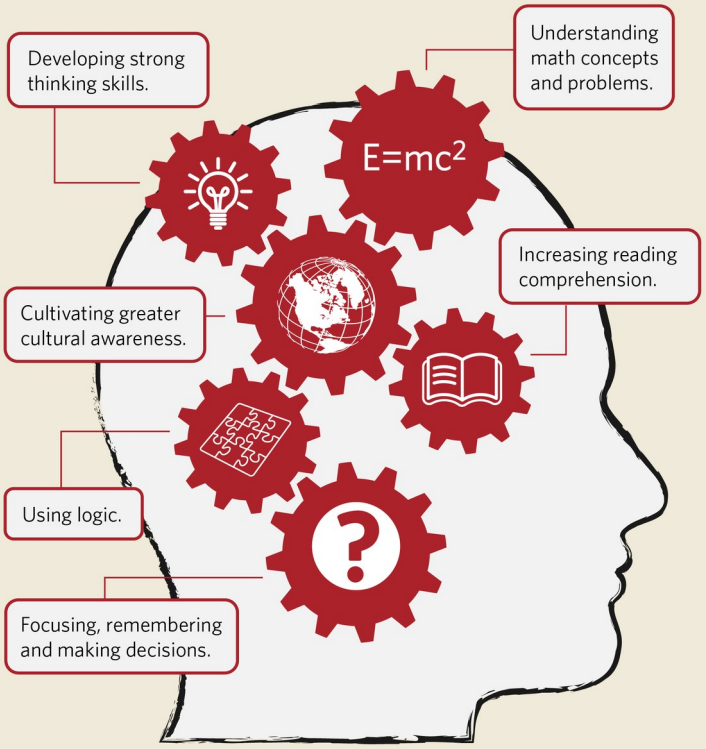


Contact GSD Family &Community Engagement Coordinator Marie Dickinson at mdickinson@doe.k12.ga.us or 706-331-6314 (call/text/videoapp).

Benefits of a
Bilingual Brain

Splash language immersion programs provide a unique and powerful opportunity to strengthen children's highest cognitive brain potentials through deliberate literacy development in two languages and authentic exposure to rich language experiences.

Research shows that **bilingual people** have an easier time with these key brain functions:



Mental Health

A multilingual brain is quicker, nimbler and more resistant to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Academic Performance

Students in dual language programs consistently outperform monolingual peers on state-mandated tests, regardless of demographic.

Preparation for the Future

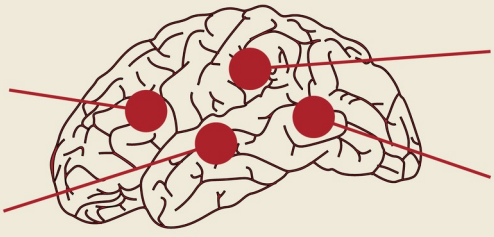
Bilingual adults have several advantages over monolingual adults, including higher average salaries and greater career opportunities.

Language in the Brain

Research also shows that the brains of bilingual people are more developed in areas that organize and process speech.

Wernicke's Area
Language sounds are processed in this area.

Auditory Cortex
Auditory stimuli is received and forwarded to Wernicke's Area.



Motor Cortex
This area controls the lips and mouth in actual speech.

Broca's Area
The brain organizes language for active speech in this area.

splash! LANGUAGE IMMERSION

VIF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For more info on Splash language immersion programs, visit us online at **learn.vifprogram.com/languageimmersion**

Sources: Zelasko and Antunez, 2000; Kessler and Quinn, 1980; Bialystok and Majumder, as cited in Ayanoka and Kasprzak, 2011; Castro, et al., 2011
For more info, visit www.vifprogram.com