



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, June 2, 2023

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Ave. Macon, GA



Georgia Academy for the Blind

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## Mark your Calendar

8/1 - Open House at GAB 12:00 to 4:00pm

8/1 - Orientation Family Meeting at 1:00pm

8/2 - First Day of School 2023-24

9/22 through 9/24 - Short Course weekend

**Mission Statement:** The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness.

### **FoodFinder Resource Available for Students & Families**

With summer break upon us, we know some students may face food insecurity while away from school buildings. FoodFinder is a mobile and web app created by a graduate of Georgia public schools that allows families to find food distribution sites (including food pantries, drive-through distributions, and school meal providers) based on their location. Please consider sharing this resource with your students and families leading into the summer hiatus. The app is free, not-for-profit, and available in several locations linked below.

**Additional Information:** **FoodFinder** on the [web](#), [App Store](#), and [Google Play](#)

# A message from our Superintendent

**Dear GAB Families,**

**Just when you thought all the celebrations and festivities for the 2022-2023 school year were over! We have two students that I just can't resist spotlighting before we scale back for a few weeks.**

**Meet Jackson Burge! We were proud to share with Jackson's mom that he was named Honorary Lifeguard for rescuing a student in the GAB pool! Water safety skills are so necessary for every student, and teaching water vigilance protects everyone. I am so proud of Jackson!!**



**Jackson with his Mom wearing his whistle as Honorary Lifeguard!**

**As you know, The GAB Way is epitomized by the theme of Self-Determination! Ambria Tharpe is an exemplar of Determination and Self-Determination. Ambria has always loved puppetry and has a collection of puppets. For her ASPIRE presentation, she**

**wrote and produced her puppet show based on the Aesop fable "The Lion and the Mouse." The moral of the story is, "Whoever it be, whatever size, we should help each other, and these kind**

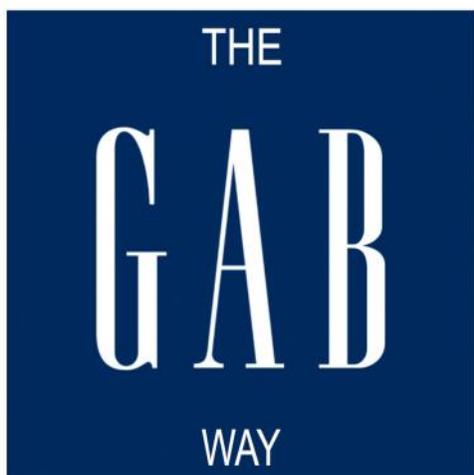


**deeds always get rewarded. Being helpful to others is the most significant virtue, and everyone is unique in their own way!"**

Of course, **GAB** is not known to brag, but just so you know the summer program which starts June 11, 2023, will include 35 accepted students. This is the largest participation in many years. (We are now turning away applicants.) Also, it is very interesting that 20 of these students are not GAB students currently. This is a good recruitment opportunity. Several parents over the past few years have been amazed when they learned at summer program that there is no cost to attending the Georgia Academy for the Blind! With the many changes in SPED Directors and mobile population, we must work continually to get our story out there to find wonderful families.



**Enjoy your summer break. Be safe and come back to continue the stories.**



**Give it your best  
Achieve your goals  
Be respectful**

**As ever,  
*Cindy***



# Letter From the Editor

**Dear GAB Families,**

**What a whirlwind of a May... the school year has flown by and here we are in June. Our Summer Program at GAB will start on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Then we have several weeks to soak up summer and enjoy before August. I look forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> for Open House at GAB. Our required Orientation Family Meeting begins at 1:00 that day, and then residential students can move their things into the cottages.**

**As a reminder, when school is out in the summer, it's a great time to update your student's Eye Report.**

**This is my last newsletter until school starts in the Fall. I'm available this summer via text or email. Please feel free to communicate with me and ask questions.**

**Have a great summer!**

**See you in August,**

**Jennifer Minter**

**Parent Mentor/Family Engagement**

**478-262-3303**



# GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND

## 2023-2024 School Calendar

### 180 Student/ 200 Day Teacher and Para

Holidays	First and Last Day for Students
Regular School Days	Open House
Graduation TBA	Professional Learning

2023								2024															
Jul-23								Jan-24															
Work Days: 7 School Days: 0  21-31 Pre-planning/ PL	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 21 School Days: 20 1 Holiday 15 MLK Holiday								
							1																
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13		
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		28	29	30	31				
Aug-23								Feb-24															
Work Days: 23 School Days: 22  1 Open House 2 First Day of School	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 19 School Days: 19 16 Holiday 19 President's Day Holiday								
				1	2	3	4	5					1	2		3							
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		25	26	27	28	29			
	27	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29											
Sep-23								Mar-24															
Work Days: 20 School Days: 20  4 Labor Day Holiday	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 20 School Days: 20  29 Holiday								
						1	2						1	2									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		31							
Oct-23								Apr-24															
Work Days: 20 School Days: 17 9-13 Student Fall Break 9 & 10 Staff Holidays (10 mo.) 11-13 GVEST PL	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 17 School Days: 17  1-5 Spring Break								
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	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		28	29	30					
	29	30	31					28	29	30													
Nov-23								May-24															
Work Days: 17 School Days: 17  20-24 Thanksgiving Holidays	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 22 School Days: 18 Graduation TBA 24 Last Day of School 27 Memorial Day Holiday 28-31 Post Planning/ PL								
					1	2	3	4				1	2	3		4							
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31		
	26	27	28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	31										
Dec-23								Jun-24															
Work Days: 11 School Days: 10  15 PL 18-Jan.1 Winter Holidays	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Work Days: 3 School Days: 0  3-5 PL								
						1	2							1									
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		30							

Sem 1 Total: Work Days =98; School Days = 86

Sem 2 Total: Work Days = 102; School Days = 94

# June Birthdays

Berkley 6/1

Tyler 6/8

Jesse C. 6/4

Courtney 6/12

