



# Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Friday, September 4th, 2020

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider*

**Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent**

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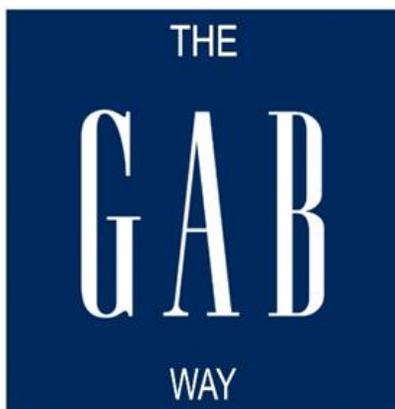
Georgia Academy for  
the Blind - GAB



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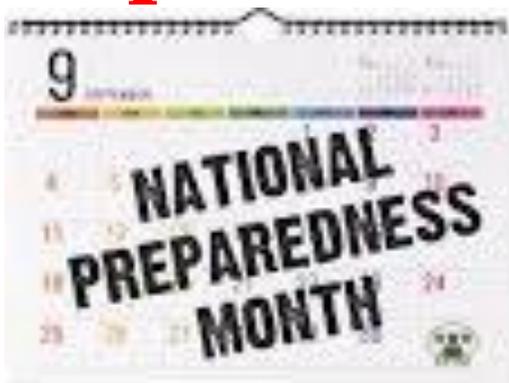
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Mission Statement: The Georgia Academy for the Blind provides quality education services to Georgia's students with visual impairments and/or visual impairments in conjunction with other disabilities to prepare them to achieve their highest level of independence in transition to college and career readiness. *Check out this student produced video featuring this Mission Statement:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRrbhkGSe98>



Give it your best  
Achieve your goals  
Be respectful

**September:**



## *Mark your Calendar :*

**9/7** - Labor Day Holiday :  
residential students  
return on Monday

**9/13** - Housekeeping  
Appreciation week!

**11/23 through 11/27** -

Thanksgiving Break

This newsletter is published by our Parent Mentor/Family Engagement Specialist, Jennifer Minter. Please send your ideas, news and resources in your community to her: [JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:JMinter@doe.k12.ga.us) or call **478-262-3303**. ***Please remember to contact her if you've had a change in address, phone number and/or email!***

# A message from our Superintendent

Dear GAB Families,

Week Number 2 and we made the local news!!!! Were your ears burning??? The reporter did an outstanding job of portraying how amazing our students, families, and staff are. Here is the link!

<https://wgxa.tv/news/local/navigating-uncharted-waters-raising-a-child-with-special-needs-during-a-pandemic>



In other news, we welcomed our new Counselor, Octavian Burch. He comes to us with a wealth of experience with students with disabilities and is so robust in his zeal to work with students with visual impairment. Stand Back! He has a lot a energy and fresh ideas. He is well-praised by his previous supervisors and coworkers. I know you will look forward to getting to know him in IEP meetings and on the GAB campus.

Technology progress is something to brag about! Our students, faculty and parent/guardians are doing an outstanding job of learning the Teams platform and adjusting to our distance learning model. Hotspots have arrived and will be distributed next week. Additional devices for remote learners have been distributed, and new devices have arrived to be programmed and distributed as needed or in the case of needing to go school-wide virtual. Please let us know if you have any glitches with your technology or want further training to your comfort level.

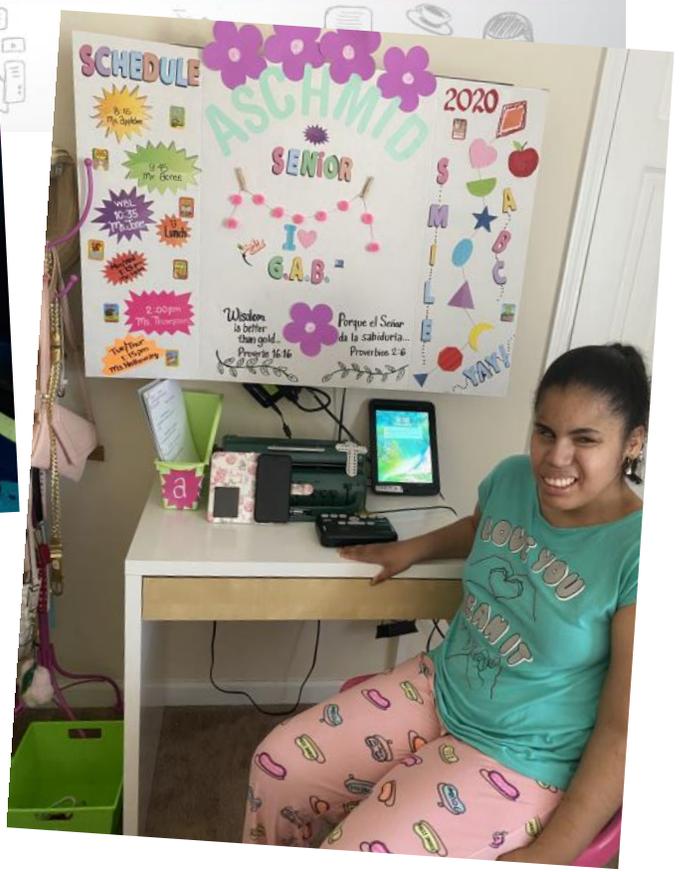
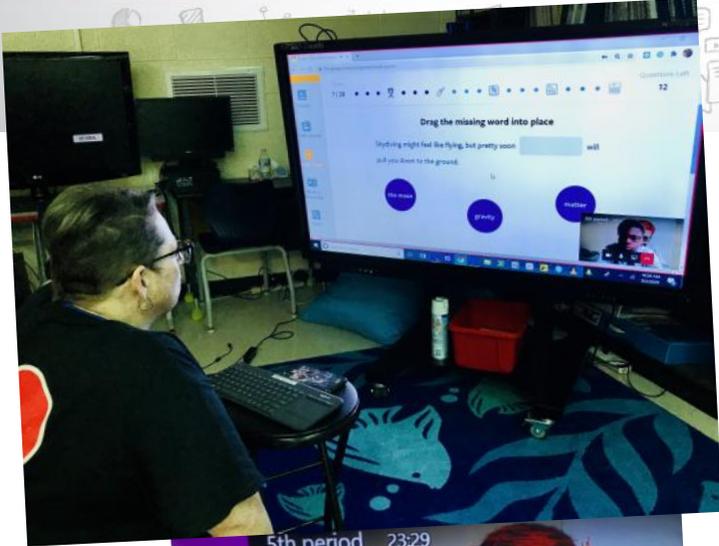
This is the year of meetings, meetings, and more meetings. Ms. Neil and IEP teams are scheduled to meet for all of our students to ensure that a Distance Learning Plan is included in the IEP, whether or not the individual student elects to utilize that model. Also, since some of our students are attending class onsite and others virtually, we need document that all are aware that classes are being recorded and that all students in the class, onsite and virtual, and even events in the home may be on those recordings.

As we observe Monday as Labor Day holiday, please take time to enjoy your family and know how very grateful we at GAB are for you all and your trust in our ability to care for your children in safety.

Always,  
Cindy



# Virtual Learning



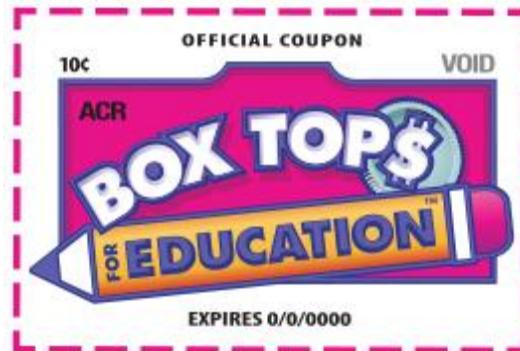
# On campus learning at GAB:



Hello GAB Panthers,

It has been a crazy few months since we were all together. I hope this letter finds you well. I am still collecting BOX TOPS for the school. There are still two ways to collect as of now. Below is an example of the BOX TOPS. You can choose to still cut out and send to me at school, or you can choose to upload the app and scan your receipt if you bought items that have BOX TOPS. If you chose not to load the app, I will be glad to scan your receipt so just send it in and I will get it done. Thank you, Ms. Layson

## THE OLD BOX TOPS CLIPS



Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production, but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store. You can still clip them and send them to school. **Every valid Box Tops clip is worth 10¢ for your school.** Make sure each one has a clearly visible product acronym and expiration date.

## THE NEW BOX TOPS LABELS



Eventually the Box Tops program will become digital-only. Participating brands are starting to change their packaging from a traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label. If you see this label, use the new Box Tops app to scan your receipt. **Box Tops are still worth 10¢ for your school.** The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash to your school's earnings online.

Welcome back to GAB for the 2020-2021 school-year! This year in Project SEARCH, we have three new interns. Let us introduce ourselves. We are: Armando Vias, Joseph Maxwell, and Tyzia Brooks. This is Cohort four. We all decided to return this year to seek more independence and to get out of our comfort zones.

### ***What is Project SEARCH?***

Project SEARCH is a program for students who want to expand their horizons and gain more knowledge about becoming independent. This program teaches job readiness skills, independent living, traveling, money management, and so much more! It's a great opportunity for students who want to grow and learn new skills.

There is something for everyone to learn in **Project SEARCH**. It's a completely different experience that grants more freedom than the regular high school curriculum. It's great for anyone who's interested in learning new things. If you need more information about Project Search, consult with Ms. Jackson, Ms. Edenfield, Ms. Drinkard, or Dr. Gibson.

**Authors:**

**Armando Vias, Joseph Maxwell, and Tyzia Brooks**



# September Birthdays

9-7	Lucas	9-15	Armando
9-7	Destiny R.	9-15	Trinity B.
9-9	Felix	9-23	DJ P.
9-10	Korey		

