



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind
Friday, May 8th, 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Avenue

Macon, GA 31204

478-751-6083



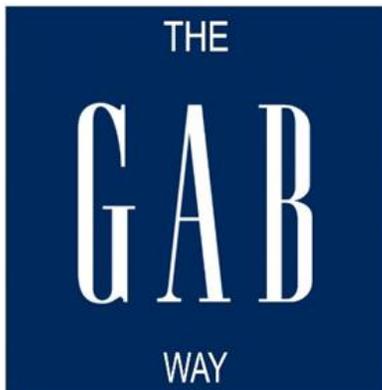
Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



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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

MAY:



Mark your Calendar

Mother's Day is May 10th—



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, 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 Family,

Good news!

I hope this week has brought you beautiful weather and blossoming hopes of COVID recovery personally and economically. We are ready to facilitate your access to campus and preparation for summer break. GAB official student/family pack up time is May 18-22, 2020, but we can schedule next week (May 11-15) to support various other responsibilities that our families are addressing. Read through this and then reach out to the named administrators and your case manager to work out a plan that is best for you.



**Singing is calming and bonding! My new favorite song, "Rescue" by Lauren Daigle.
-Dr. Gibson at home with Payne Stewart**

- Frank Reynolds and Jon Smith frreynol@doe.k12.ga.us jonsmith@doe.k12.ga.us will schedule appointments for student cottage pack up for the week of May 18-22 when distance learning is complete and the last scheduled day of school is May 22.
- Dawn Day mday@doe.k12.ga.us will schedule technology returns during the time that families return to clean out rooms and for seniors who, of course, will not be returning and for students who desire to turn in State equipment even though they will be at GAB next year. Ms. Day will instruct case managers how to document students' keeping technology over the summer.
- Distance learning ends May 15 except for makeup or requested enrichment. Students may need their assistive technology after the 15th if they are still completing assignments.
- If a student is returning when we reopen and does not need to pack up belongings at this time, he/she may keep the technology over the summer until school reopens, so that no one is making an unnecessary and inconvenient trip. Ms. Day will provide documentation procedures for case managers.
- Any person on campus must wear PPE- face covering and gloves. Families need to provide their masks, gloves, or just a scarf to cover the face. Also bring packing boxes if needed.

- We do not have an official start date for the 2020-2021 school year because of the ongoing pandemic concerns. If we get the “all clear,” students would be scheduled to return on Sunday, August 2, 2020. It will be some time before we can make decisions. The State Schools Division is working on communication to keep you informed preparing for whatever may come.
- Be thinking about your interest and availability for any summer enrichment. At this time we do not have high hopes of on-site summer programming, but perhaps could continue distance learning. We are in talking phase, and a survey opportunity is in the works. Jennifer Minter is a great ear for your ideas, as are your case managers.
- Shhhhhhhh. . . . We’ve had extra time in the “kitchen” over these weeks, and there are some things “cookin’” for our Seniors whose Graduation Day was scheduled for May 20, 2020. You’re going to like it! In addition, please know that if schedules work out, the graduation committee has proposed that Graduation Exercises 2020 be held on August 26, 2020, at GAB, followed by a party and the Senior Instructional Trip. More to come. . .

Thank you all for your patience and forbearance during the pandemic. This information will be posted on the website, FaceBook, and reiterated through your case managers. Our goal is to meet your schedule and needs as best we can, so please reach out if you have questions or concerns. In the spirit of Supt. Richard Woods, “Compassion over Compliance” reigns at the Georgia Academy for the Blind.

We’re in this together!

Always,

Cindy

Cindy B. Gibson, Ed.D., T.V.I.
Superintendent
Georgia Academy for the Blind



Mrs. Moore with her 60 lb, 5 month old pit-bull pup named "Vader"



Mrs. Moore on a Zoom call with friends from Space Camp.

GAB Teachers at Home:



Mrs. Thompson with a bowl she made at home doing her favorite hobby-wood turning.



Mrs. Rushing working from home with the help of her son Drake.



Mr. Acree with his son Christopher and their dog Houdini



GAB Teachers at Home:



Mr. Caldwell walking his Bichon Frise, Bisou



Mrs. Applebee with her family on Easter after their church service .



Mrs. Franks at Dickey Farms with daughter Emily & husband Kevin



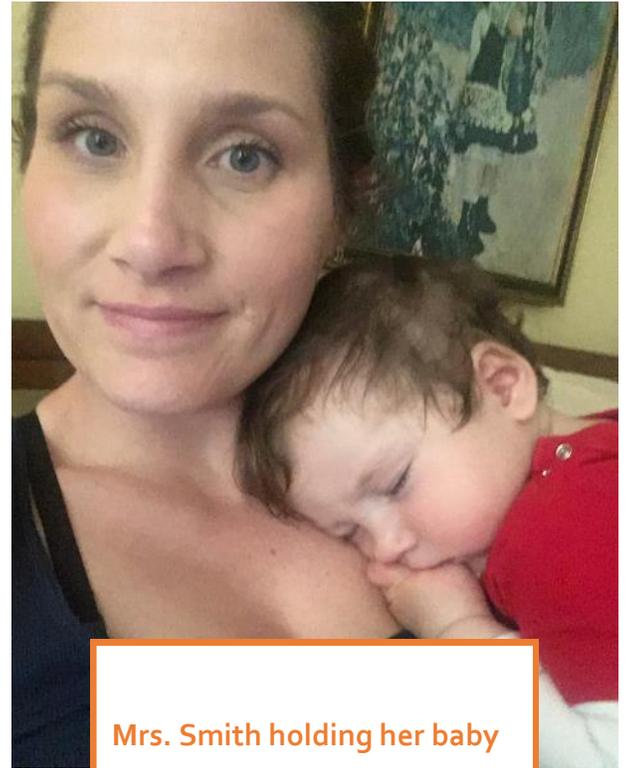
CELEBRITY DINNER NIGHT



Mrs. Churchwell with her son Westin.



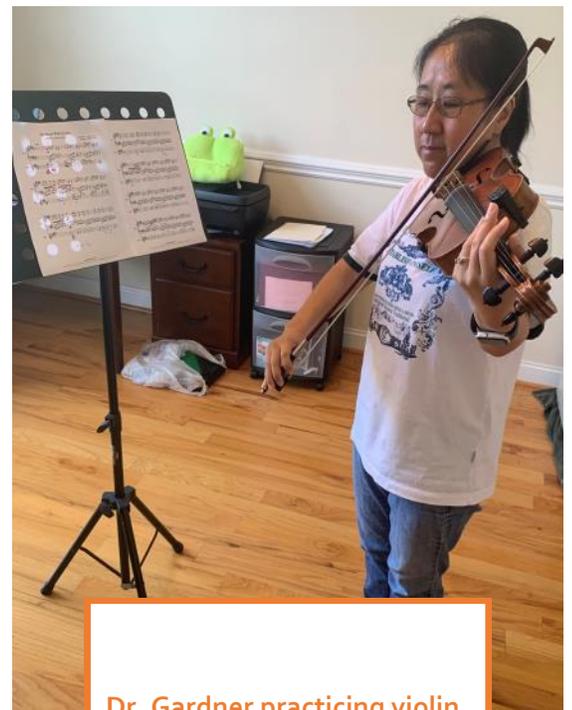
Mrs. Mullis with her 91 year old grandad who has dementia. She has been able to stay with him and help care for him while working from home.



Mrs. Smith holding her baby boy, Asah, while he naps.

GAB Teachers at Home:

Mrs. McDavid with daughter Emilee take daily golf cart rides in the neighborhood on the golf course.



Dr. Gardner practicing violin

May Birthdays

5-4 Jordan W.

5-4 Mary Beth

5-19 Tyzia

5-20 Heidi

5-20 William



Ms. Eckman has been away from GAB for 19 weeks now. She injured her knee and had to have surgery, then before she could return we were all sent home to shelter in place. Since knee surgery and COVID-19 she has spent her time sitting on the patio, listening to the stream and the birds, and reading.



And drinking herbal teas:

