



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind
Friday, May 1st, 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Dr. Cindy Gibson, Superintendent

2895 Vineville Avenue

Macon, GA 31204

478-751-6083



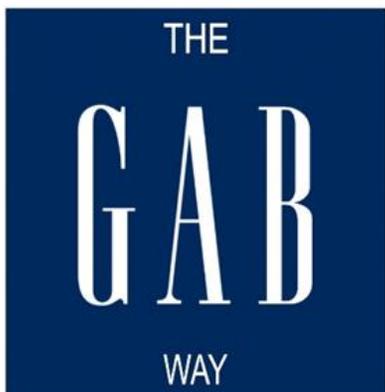
Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



Follow our library:

@gablibrary

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

Teacher Appreciation Week—
May 4th through May 8th



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 Families and Staff,

We are soon to complete seven weeks of digital learning, and what a learning curve it has been. Thank you to families for your patience and ingenuity in making it happen! In the news this week is the Georgia Department of Education directive to dispense with using Zoom as an educational tool because of some security concerns. Teachers are making contact to advise their amended ways of instruction, some of which may be a little more on the low-tech side. We are making plans now to have families and staff prepared with a digital format, should we elect or circumstances require that we resort to off-site teaching and learning again.

The Honorable Governor Brian Kemp announced amended shelter-in-place and extended the Public Health State of Emergency through June 12, 2020. While updates are frequent, currently GAB, a State agency, remains closed and enforces strict social distancing and sanitation regulations as required. That said, we cannot provide a date for families to access the campus for personal items; that decision will come from the Georgia Department of Education. We apologize for the inconvenience and will move forward as soon as possible. Plan now to have your PPE and boxes ready for pack up day.

Though we yearn for our “old” normal, we are moving on, moving strong planning for year 2020-2021. Nothing squelches our enthusiasm for ESY, SOP, IEP and placement meetings. It is a pleasure to “see” you in those meetings and to greet new members of the GAB family.

Whatever your needs, please let us know. GAB serves the WHOLE child and the WHOLE family. Until we meet again, stay strong and be good to yourself.

Always,

Cindy

Cindy B. Gibson, Ed.D., T.V.I.

cgibson@doe.k12.ga.us



Take time to relax and find joy even while we really yearn for our “old” normal. Be good to yourself!

-Dr. Gibson at home with Payne Stewart

GAB Students at Home:

Top left - Jess doing a skit for Ensemble class.

Bottom left corner - a collage of Roni making the best of this adventure... working out on the wii , homework in car while we wait to buy meat at meat market , egg hunting with her nephew and a little fresh air bike riding

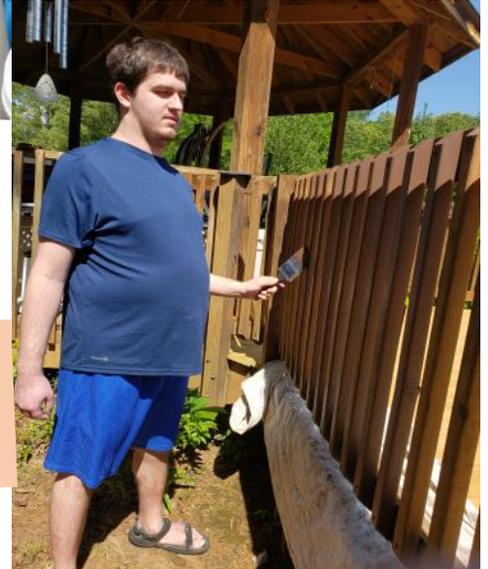
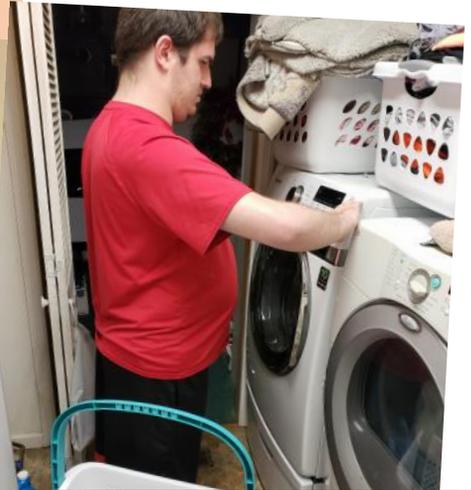
Below on the right - Destiny working out with canned goods!



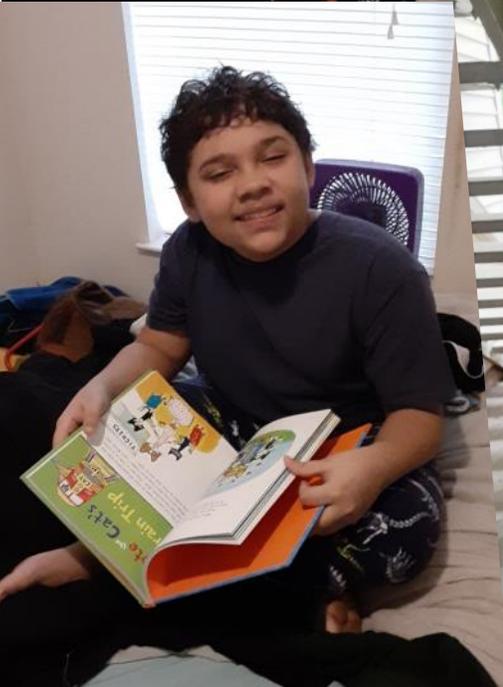
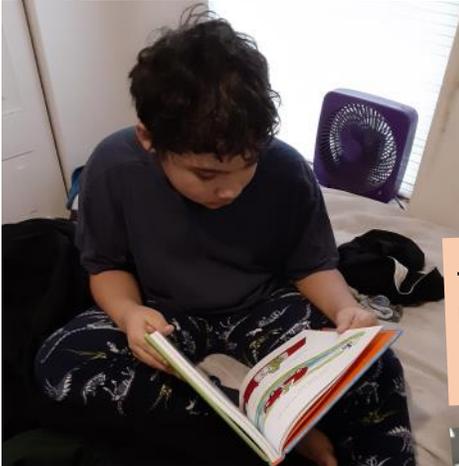
GAB students at Home!



Blake on the left using refresh braille with ipod and below he is folding towels.



James on the left reading in his room, while his brother Jesse takes out the trash!



Noah at the top doing laundry and Noah painting stain on the fence helping out!



Happenings on GAB campus



Our New warehouse storage building is almost completed.

The roof is ON and they are doing some work on the inside.



After 34 years as full time horticulture teacher and 6 as part time grounds keeper, Mark Bruner is an expert at social distancing over these 22 acres of mid-town Macon, GA.



May Birthdays

5-4 Jordan W.

5-4 Mary Beth

5-19 Tyzia

5-20 Heidi

5-20 William



A Message from the Media Specialist:

In the library world, “Choose Privacy Week” is coming up.. From the American Library Association:

Choose Privacy Week:

May 1st through 7th

Choose Privacy Week, first observed by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) in 2010, is an initiative that invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age. The campaign gives libraries the tools they need to educate and engage users, and gives citizens the resources to think critically and make more informed choices about their privacy.

Kim Smith, TVI, M. Ed.

Media Specialist

Georgia Academy for the Blind

Please see on the next page a handout about making safe passwords with a link to test your password strength:

Online Self Defense - Creating Strong Passwords

Do not use the password you create here for any of your online accounts.

1. Write a passphrase. Examples:

- a. Spooky Halloween
- b. I love reading at the library
- c. Today is a great day
- d. Hope is the only thing stronger than fear

My passphrase is:

2. Add numbers and symbols. Examples:

- a. SpookyHalloween4252
- b. I love reading at the library*@3
- c. 15&Todayisagreatday
- d. Hope is the only thing stronger than fear67%

My new passphrase is:

Tips for Success:

- Don't use personal information (street name, nicknames, children's names)
- Avoid simple words, phrases, or patterns (abcd, 1234, qwerty, password)
- Don't reuse passwords on important accounts (banks, email, taxes)
- Don't write it down on a piece of paper where someone can find it
- Use face ID or fingerprint passwords when possible
- Use 2-factor authentication