



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider

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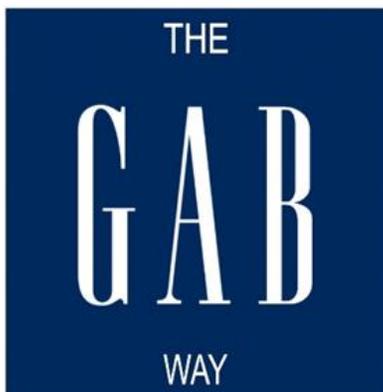


Georgia Academy for the Blind - GAB



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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

APRIL:

National
Poetry
Month
April

GAB Families: Please send me pictures of your child at home doing school work or life skills- Text pictures to 478-262-3303 Jennifer Minter

April is Occupational Therapy Month:



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,

I hope you are safe and well as we wait out the COVID-19 crisis. We miss each other terribly and are rocking cyberspace continuing instruction and operations. I have just a few updates this week. Teachers and IEP teams are continuing the work of Distance Learning Plans, IEP meetings, and planning toward 2020-2021. Larry Harris, Nathan Forrester and Jay Kaehne continue to do a yeoman's job of distributing technology in the COVID environment. Thank you to everyone for mammoth patience and participation.

One thing that is on everyone's mind is access to the campus to retrieve personal items and close out for summer break. GAB is in closure until further notice; however, if there are essential items such as medicine that we need to retrieve and mail to anyone, please email me cgibson@doe.k12.ga.us

We are hopeful that we are going to turn the corner on this virus soon and can safely provide access. There is new guidance frequently now, so we are getting closer to at least "soft" access.

Secondly, families are due a huge applause for making a go of online instruction when that is not a tested and true teaching and learning mode for us! We are all worried about regression when students are away from engaging instruction for lengths of time. Knowing that we have made good faith effort and continued instruction as best we are able, the grading procedures approved by the Georgia Department of Education are amended to reflect the change in delivery model of off-site instruction. Thus, for students in K-8, grades will be Pass/Fail. High school 9-12 students will receive actual numerical averages based on the three grading periods prior to closure and assignments offered during closure. No student will receive a failing grade unless he/she was failing at 3rd Quarter and has not availed himself/herself of the make-up opportunities during closure. If you have any concerns, feel free to reach out to the teacher, case manager, or an administrator.

If there is a group who is the absolutely most disenfranchised by this crisis, that group would be the Class of 2020 Graduates and their families. You shall not go uncelebrated! Thank you to the Senior sponsors Melanie Thompson and Gene Collins for reaching out to plan for postponed activities. We are planning an August graduation service, party, and Senior trip to include 2020 and 2021 graduates. We will know more when we have an actual return to business as usual status.

Whatever your needs, please let us know. We are always going to do our best for you and yours. Until we meet again, stay strong and be good to yourself.

Always,

Cindy



No home office is complete without a service animal! Payne Stewart (my dog) doesn't understand I have to have a place to plug in all of my devices, sunlight, coffee cup safe place and a drawer for paperwork. This is it! Shoes not required, but 6 weeks w/o pedi—ugggly!

- Dr. Gibson at home

Celebrating Occupational Therapy Month

Allison Hawkins MHS,OTR/L
Sensory Integration Certified
Occupational Therapist

The Georgia Academy for the Blind

&

Dodi Good, COTA/Occupational Therapy
The Georgia Academy for the Blind



Occupational therapy services are crucial to our students and we are truly blessed to have the best serving at GAB. Allison and Dodi are exceptional and we count ourselves lucky that they are part of our team!

-Tyreine Neil, Special Education Director at GAB

GAB students go to Space Camp this Fall 2020!



Teachers: Neel Bennett & Cheryl Moore



Area 51 includes a 50 ft. Rock-Wall climb and then a Zip-line down

Dr. Bennett is proud to announce that 5 GAB students earned scholarships to attend Space Camp this fall! Rickoy got a full scholarship from the St. Louis Lighthouse Visions organization. The other 4 students earned partial scholarships through the Delta Gamma Found-

ation and they include Felix W., Korey W., DaQuan B., and Clay S. The plan for Space Camp is

Presentation from a Blind NASA Chemist.

to leave Friday, September 25th and Return Friday, October 2nd. Families will be contacted soon so that these students will be registered by May 1st.



30 ft. Pamper Pole Climb and then a jump to get down

GOT TALENT

Dear Parents and students,

Dr. Gibson has given us permission to carry on the beloved tradition of a school talent show. Polish those tap shoes, dust of the piano, pull out the joke book, and get ready to share.

This will be a virtual talent show, so you'll need to videotape performances and email me the MP3 version or (better yet) the Youtube link. If the files are too large, they won't send. Try to keep the performances short: 30 seconds to two minutes if possible. My email address is kapplebee@doe.k12.ga.us

Content must be appropriate to be included so make wise choices and let your light shine!

Deadline for entries is April 30th.

**Thank you!
Kristen Applebee
Art Teacher**



April Birthdays

4-2 Bentlee

4-2 Pierce

4-4 Caden

4-7 Quay

4-17 Dillion

4-25 Josiah

4-28 Hope

4-30 Joe M.



National Poetry Month:

CELEBRATING BLIND POETS IN WORLD HISTORY:

*“When I consider how
my light is spent
Ere half my days in
this dark world and
wide...”*

These famous lines come from a sonnet composed more than 350 years ago by the English poet John Milton. The sonnet, officially titled “When I Consider How My Light is Spent” but also sometimes called “On His Blindness”, was Milton’s meditation on his loss of sight at the age of 44. Milton would go on to write [Paradise Lost](#), his most famous work, by dictating his poetry to scribes.

CDC: COVID-19 and Children – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the risk of my child becoming sick with COVID-19? Based on available evidence, children do not appear to be at higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. You can learn more about who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 at [People who are at higher risk for severe illness](#).

How can I protect my child from COVID-19 infection? You can encourage your child to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by teaching them to do the same things everyone should do to stay healthy.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, door-knobs, and cabinet handles).

Launder items, including washable plush toys, as appropriate and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

You can find additional information on preventing COVID-19 at [Prevention for 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) and at [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#). Additional information on how COVID-19 is spread is available at [How COVID-19 Spreads](#). More information on [Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) is available online.

Are the symptoms of COVID-19 different in children than in adults? No. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

Should children wear masks? CDC recommends that everyone 2 years and older wear a cloth face covering that covers their nose and mouth when they are out in the community. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies or children younger than 2 because of the danger of suffocation. Children younger than 2 years of age are listed as an exception as well as anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Wearing cloth face coverings is a public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) social distancing, frequent hand cleaning, and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms.

How do I prepare my children in case of COVID-19 outbreak in our community? Outbreaks can be stressful for adults and children. Talk with your children about the outbreak, try to stay calm, and reassure them that they are safe. If appropriate, explain to them that most illness from COVID-19 seems to be mild. [Children respond differently to stressful situations than adults](#). CDC offers [resources](#) to help talk with children about COVID-19.

What steps should parents take to protect children during a community outbreak?

This is a new virus and we are still learning about it, but so far, there does not seem to be a lot of illness in children. Most illness, including serious illness, is happening in adults of working age and older adults. However, children do get the virus and become ill. Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.