



Panther Press

A publication of the Georgia Academy for the Blind

Thursday, April 9th, 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

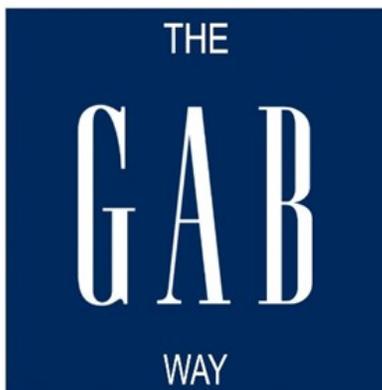


Follow our library:

@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

APRIL:



ATTENTION PARENTS/FAMILIES AT GAB:

Please feel free to contact me if you have not been in touch with your child's teacher :
Jennifer Minter cell : 478-262-3303

For National Poetry Month: If your child writes a poem during this time at home, please email me a copy of his/her poem so I can share in the GAB newsletter:
jminter@doe.k12.ga.us

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April 13: Monday after Easter – **Holiday**

May 20: Graduation GAB—**Will be Rescheduled**

May 22: Last day of School

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!***

An Update from our Superintendent

Today technology items are being mailed to students as requested by their case managers. Staff are receiving laptops and iPads if needed. We are following all social distancing guidelines including PPE and scheduling appointments 30 minutes apart. Items are being delivered to staff outside in open air. We do not know when we may open the campus for retrieval of personal items. This is a big week in terms of the virus data and decreasing risk for contamination efforts.

A question has been posed about Seniors and the dues that they paid. We will work with the Senior sponsors, and dues will be refunded to seniors who paid. I love Mrs. Applebee's song. What a year this Class of 2020 is having!

A meeting will be held Thursday to discuss grading, graduation, and continuing instructional needs during closure. I will send an update after that. Staff members are doing an amazing job of reaching out to families and promoting engagement. We will get through this! The most important thing right now is to stay home, stay strong, and be good to yourself.

**Thank you to our Local Heroes:
Larry, Nathan, and Jay. You are the BEST!
Stay strong and be good to yourself.
-Cindy**

**Larry and Herschel did an amazing job getting all the
"requests" from the teachers!
I don't know how they found all that stuff in the classrooms.
The list just kept getting bigger and bigger!!!
-Nathan**

From GAB Orientation and Mobility:



Parents please continue to reinforce your child's orientation and cane skills during the school closure time. If you have sidewalks in your neighborhood you can walk down the street or around the block.

Remind your child to hold his/her cane at the top of the grip and physically prompt if necessary. Watch your child and be within arms reach when they approach a corner. You can also practice sighted-guide techniques. Let them open doors themselves after they have located the doors with their cane. These are just a few O&M techniques that you might have the chance to reinforce during this time of school closure.

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.

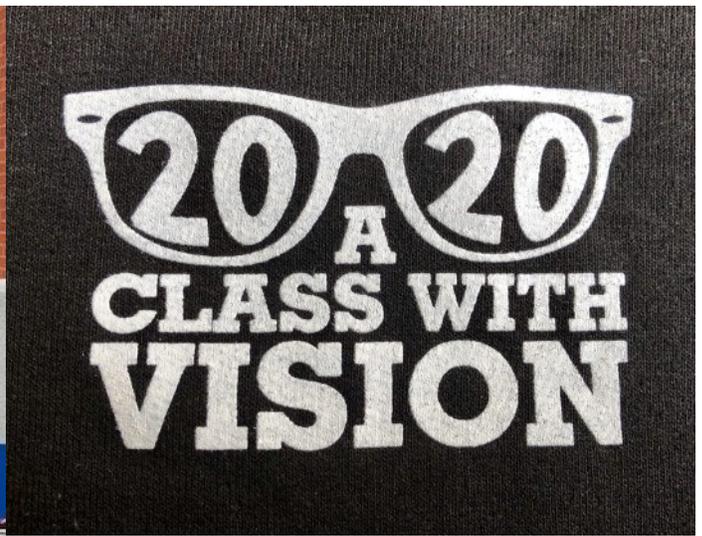
This will be a virtual talent show, so you'll need to videotape performances and email me the MP3 version or (better yet) the Youtube link. If the files are too large, they won't send. Try to keep the performances short: 30 seconds to two minutes if possible. My email address is kapplebee@doe.k12.ga.us

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

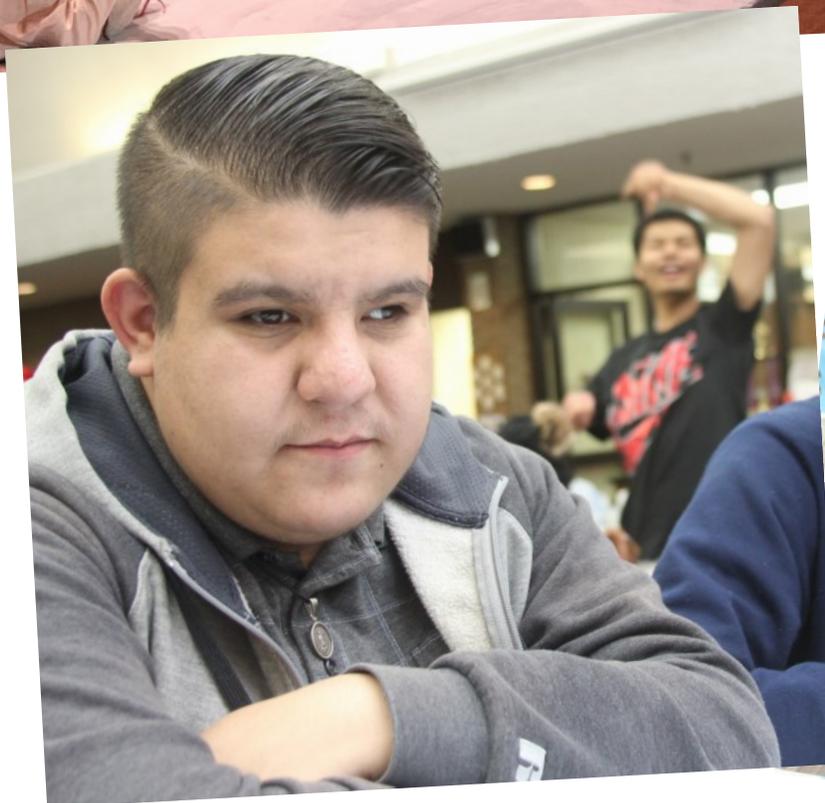
Deadline for entries is April 30th.

**Thank you!
Kristen Applebee
Art Teacher**





Please contact Mr. Collins or Mrs. Thompson for questions about Graduation: MCollins@doe.k12.ga.us
MThompson@doe.k12.ga.us



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:

Some levity...

I miss every greeting,
Every catchphrase, every confounding idiosyncrasy,
Every quirk and eccentricity.
I miss every face,
I even miss the place.
But maybe not the meetings.

I miss every hug in the hall,
Every look of confusion, every lesson plan failure
Who'da thought that? Go figure.
I miss every smile
And smirk full of guile.
But not the meetings that much at all.

I miss every unique personality,
Every crazy sense of humor, and sarcastic remark
Every skeptical furrowed brow and snark.
I miss that light that shines in their eyes
And the "I got it!" cries.
But not those meetings called with regularity.

I miss my classes, every one,
More and more every day
I never thought this much, what can I say?
I miss my kids, my coworkers, my friends.
This wasn't the way it was supposed to end.
But those meetings? Nope, glad there are done.

Wait! There's a chat meeting on Friday?
Ya'll trying to be make me cray-cray.

Angela D. Touchton
VI Teacher High School Social Sciences
Georgia Academy for the Blind