



Bibb County School District
Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs
484 Mulberry Street, Suite 365, Macon, Georgia 31201, (478) 765-8548
<http://www.bcsdk12.net>

Dr. Dan A. Sims
Superintendent of Schools

Daryl J. Morton
Board President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT
Brooke Moore (478) 765-8642

**APPLING NAMED LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL, MAKING NORTHEAST ZONE
FIRST IN STATE TO ACHIEVE ZONE-WIDE LIGHTHOUSE STATUS**

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(MACON, GA) – Appling Middle School was named a Leader in Me Lighthouse School by FranklinCovey Education. This recognition reflects the strong implementation of the Leader in Me framework and the intentional work of the staff and students.

This designation means every school in the Northeast zone is now a Lighthouse school. Lighthouse status reflects achievement of a high standard of implementation of Leader in Me and Stephen Covey's book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." The Lighthouse designation is for two years, and schools must demonstrate continued implementation in order to achieve recertification.

"The Northeast Zone has set a powerful example of what is possible when leadership is cultivated with intention. Achieving Lighthouse status across all schools reflects a shared commitment to empowering students, strengthening culture, and leading with purpose," said Jamie Cassady, Assistant Superintendent of Student Affairs.

The Bibb County School District first implemented Leader in Me in 2015, with the support of OneMacon's Business Education Partnership. Leader in Me schools teach students important skills to help them succeed throughout their entire life, including in the classroom to enhance their academic growth. Through BEP, the community provided funds to implement a pilot initiative in two schools – Burdell-Hunt Magnet School and Carter Elementary School. After seeing the results – a positive impact on not only the students, but also with the teachers and parents – districtwide implementation of Leader in Me was supported in 2018.

There are five schools in the Northeast zone: Northeast High, Appling Middle, Bernd Elementary, Burdell-Hunt Magnet, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary. In January 2025, Northeast High School became the first Lighthouse-certified high school in the state of Georgia. Now, 17 schools in the District have attained Leader in Me Lighthouse School status. Schools with Lighthouse status: Bernd, Burdell-Hunt, Carter, Heard, Heritage, Porter, Skyview, Springdale, MLK, Taylor, Union, Veterans, Vineville Academy, Appling, Miller, Northeast.