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GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMUNICATOR



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 12** - Gordon County Schools Board of Education Meeting
- **September 17** - Gordon County Chamber of Commerce Presents: [Amazing Race](#)
- **September 16** - Digital Learning Day
- **October 3** - [Gordon County Schools Board of Education Meeting](#)
- **October 1 - 31**: [Light Your Porch Pink](#)
- **October 10 - 14**: Fall Break
- **October 17 - 27**: [Gordon County Schools Driver's Education Class](#)

ADDITIONAL HAPPENINGS IN GORDON COUNTY SCHOOLS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).
INCLUDING FALL VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULES

LEADERSHIP

This week's BIG Idea: Freedom in Feedback

As today is progress report day for our elementary and middle schools, my thoughts drift to those receiving grade reports and what the plan is for improvement for each learner and each adult.

As a school system, we must be developmentally deliberate (intentional) in all areas as we seek to grow our students and serve them in the best manner possible. We can't wait until those formal grading periods to communicate expectations and critique performance. We must work along the way by giving feedback in a variety of ways. Their progress report is one for us too as we plan next steps this semester.

Today, think about the freedom that comes with feedback.

When specific feedback is given, freedom is gained. Those who receive feedback are set free from the fear of the unknown. Questions are answered: How am I doing? Did I do that right? How do I know how to improve?

Direction and guidance are essential in education. What is the target (or goal)? Where is the target? How do I get there from where I am right now (not from where I am supposed to be)?

In its best form, feedback gives direction and guidance. A number, average, or letter grade cannot do that.

Another way there is freedom in feedback is for the person giving the feedback. Giving thoughtful, honest feedback frees you by opening the door for discussions regarding improvement. It frees you from the frustration of those not meeting expectations and the disappointment experienced when outcomes are not met.

You give feedback to open communication about improvement and to give the recipient all the information needed for him/her to make choices on how to change moving forward.

Brene' Brown said, "Clear is kind." Feedback starts with clear expectations.

We've set high expectations for teaching and learning this year. Be sure your students and others to whom you give feedback have the specific information needed to meet and exceed those expectations as they continue to learn and grow.

Now, let's enjoy the freedom found in feedback to **Grow, Empower, and Transform** GCS each day.

Proud to be part of this One BIG Family!

Dr. Kimberly Fraker
Superintendent
Gordon County Schools
#OneBIGFamily



ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

September is Attendance Awareness Month!

To celebrate school attendance, we will have a friendly competition among our schools. The school with the highest attendance percentage during the month of September will win an ice cream party.

The school with highest attendance percentage on September 30th will receive an attendance trophy!

TECHNOLOGY

[TECH BYTES](#)

The link below will take you to the fifth installment of our Gordon County Schools Technology Update Video "Tech Bytes". These are short informative videos we send out frequently to make sure everyone is up to speed on the latest news as it relates to technology in Gordon County Schools. This week's episode contains updates on the following topics:

- [Apple Education Community](#)
- [Apple Professional Learning](#)
- [Apple Classroom Tips](#)
- [Tech Tip: Emoji](#)
- [Tech Teacher Nomination Form](#)

[Tech Bytes, Episode 5»](#)

[GCS Technology Spotlight Form»](#)

KIDS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS

[KIDS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS](#)

I was teaching the students about pigs. I said "boy pigs are boars, girl pigs are sows. Does anyone know what a baby pig is called?"

A boy in my class yelled out "pork chop".

Lisa Byrd
Lead Teacher
W.L. Swain Elementary School

Do you have a funny "kids say the darndest things" moment you would like to share?
Send it to kpannell@gcbe.org to be featured in a future newsletter!

STAFF RESOURCES



[Statewide Employee Assistance Program](#)

In August, the Georgia Department of Education launched a statewide Employee Assistance Program for all full-time, public-school teachers and staff in the state, along with Pre-K teachers.

Any employees at the school or district level who work at least 29 hours per week are eligible, along with their household members and children under age 26.

Georgia's Public Education Employee Assistance Program is a partnership between GaDOE and Kepro and is designed to support your mental health and wellness. The EAP is free, confidential, and supportive, and will allow you to access up to six sessions of mental health counseling, financial and legal resources, work/life referral services, and more. Services are available starting today.

How to Access Your EAP:

Visit EAPHelpLink.com or dial 1-866-279-5177 and use code GADOE

Q&A Webinar Opportunity:

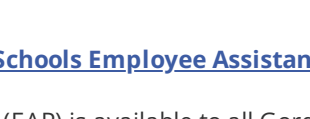
If you have questions about the EAP, join us for a Q&A webinar with Kepro, GaDOE, and Georgia Teacher of the Year Michael Kobito on one of the following dates:

- Monday, September 12, 2022 at 5 p.m. ([click here to register](#))
- Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 4 p.m. ([click here to register](#))

Additional Resources:

- EAP Overviews ([here](#) and [here](#))
- [Resource Guide](#)
- [FAQs](#)

The launch of the EAP is a direct response to the recommendations of the Teacher Burnout Task Force chaired by 2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year Cherie Bonder Goldman. The classroom teachers who comprised the Teacher Burnout Task Force recommended that the state, local districts, and schools "provide mental health support or strengthen existing programs of mental health support for teachers and staff (i.e., Employee Assistance Program)." The state plans to take additional actions in response to the Teacher Burnout Task Force's report.



[Gordon County Schools Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#)

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all Gordon County Schools employees at **no cost** for you and your dependents.

Confidential Problems are just a part of everyday life. The EAP is a free and confidential resource for you and your family members. Unum is never provided with the names of individuals using the service or for what reason.

You can either speak with a counselor on the phone or go online to access a comprehensive library of topics. The EAP provides 3 counseling sessions per incident, per person, per year!

Whether you are troubled about your relationship, experiencing stress, or even feeling isolated and alone, there are many good reasons to talk to someone. A Guidance Consultant can help you deal with any personal issue or concern you face.

[Unum EAP Overview»](#)



[Master's of Arts in Teaching Program](#)

Middle Georgia State University is offering a Master's of Arts in Teaching program. It is an online 11 month program and there are some grant opportunities for qualified applicants.

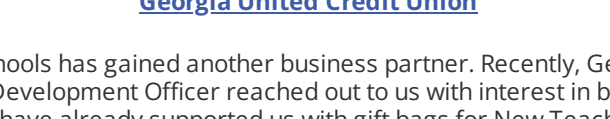
Learn more about this program by visiting the attachments below!

[Master of Arts in Teaching Classes»](#)

[Master of Arts in Teaching FAQs»](#)

[Nurture Stipend Information»](#)

Middle Georgia State University's Department of Teacher Education & Social work is a recipient of the Project NURTURE federal grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. This grant provides a partial stipend to qualified graduate interns admitted in the MAT program. The total amount of the stipend is disbursed over three semesters by check directly to the qualified graduate intern.



[Georgia United Credit Union](#)

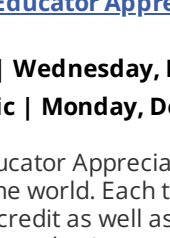
Gordon County Schools has gained another business partner. Recently, Georgia United Credit Union's Business Development Officer reached out to us with interest in becoming a business partner. They have already supported us with gift bags for New Teacher Orientation.

In addition, they plan to assist financially with the REACH Scholars Program, Christmas assistance, Teacher of the Year, and our Retirement Luncheon among other things. Also, they are offering Gordon County Schools employees exclusive benefits for any employee interested in opening checking or savings accounts with them, credit card services, loans, or money market accounts. Finally, they offer free Financial Education for employees. Attached are the 2-page PowerPoints describing the opportunities exclusively for GCS Employees for all who are interested.

We are excited about this new partnership.

[Partner Incentives & Rewards»](#)

[Program Overview»](#)



[Atlanta Hawks Educator Appreciation Nights](#)

ATL Hawks vs. SAC Kings | Wednesday, November 23rd | 7:30pm

ATL Hawks vs. ORL Magic | Monday, December 19th | 7:30pm

Join the Atlanta Hawks for one of their Educator Appreciation Nights to help them celebrate those who are building the future leaders of the world. Each ticket purchased through the link below includes \$10 worth of food and beverage credit as well as an Atlanta Hawks T-shirt (while supplies last).

Visit the link below to purchase tickets today!*

hawkspromos.com/educator

*For groups of 10 or more or for tickets to a different game, please contact Ryan Collier at ryan.collier@hawks.com or at 404-878-3714. Ticket prices and availability are subject to change, so order your tickets today!

[GCS MOBILE APP](#)

We are thrilled to announce our new app for mobile phones! Stay up-to-date with access to events, documents, news from administrators, student stories, and even emergency notifications.

You can download the app for free on Google Play or Apple App Store.

[Android App»](#)

[iPhone App»](#)

[COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD](#)

The Gordon County Schools virtual bulletin board features links to various options for Summer Camps in the Gordon County Schools community to explore!

This page is updated regularly with more fun opportunities for students and their families!

[Bulletin Board»](#)



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#GoCoSchools

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