

# Titan Times Newsletter

**CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, UNITY, AND THE FUTURE!**

»»»» MAY 2026 EDITION ««««

## Message from Superintendent Wray

Dear Turner County Families and Community,

As we close another successful school year in Turner County Schools, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible accomplishments, growth, and memories made throughout our district this year. From our youngest learners taking important first steps in literacy and learning to our graduating seniors preparing to begin the next chapter of their lives, this school year has been filled with hard work, determination, and countless moments of pride. Our students have excelled academically, athletically, artistically, and through service to others, and we are grateful for the teachers, staff, families, and community members who support them every step of the way.



This year has been a powerful reminder that success is built through strong relationships, high expectations, and a commitment to continuous growth. Across our schools, we have seen students engaged in meaningful learning experiences, teachers implementing innovative instructional strategies, and staff members working tirelessly to create safe, supportive, and positive environments for all students. Whether through literacy initiatives, career-connected learning opportunities, band performances, athletics, leadership programs, or community partnerships, our schools continue to provide opportunities that help students grow both academically and personally.

As we head into summer break, I encourage all of our students to continue reading, learning, exploring new opportunities, and spending quality time with family and friends. Summer is a time to recharge and reflect, but it is also a time to continue building the skills and habits that lead to future success. We are already excited about the opportunities that await us next school year as we continue striving for excellence and building momentum across Turner County Schools.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and investment in our students and schools. It is an honor to serve this community, and I am proud of all we have accomplished together this year. I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to welcoming our students and staff back for another great year ahead.

Go Titans!  
Warm regards,  
Christy Wray  
Superintendent

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## From the District Office

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### Turner County Schools Celebrates the Class of 2026

Turner County Schools proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2026 with a memorable ceremony filled with excitement, pride, and joy as graduates officially completed this important chapter of their educational journey. Smiles could be seen throughout Alan Hobby Field as students walked across the stage surrounded by the support of family members, friends, teachers, administrators, and community members who gathered to celebrate their accomplishments. The evening recognized not only academic achievement, but also the hard work, perseverance, and determination that helped each graduate reach this milestone moment.

The ceremony included inspiring final remarks from Valedictorian Chris Hernandez and Salutatorian Laniyah Fulton, who shared heartfelt reflections, encouragement, and memories with their classmates as they prepared to begin the next chapter of their lives. Their words highlighted the friendships, challenges, and successes that shaped the Class of 2026 throughout their years at Turner County Schools. The graduation ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the bright

futures ahead for these students, and Turner County Schools is incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and the impact they will continue to make in the future.



### **Celebrating Staff During Appreciation Week**

The Turner County Schools District Wellness Team, led by District Mental Health Specialist Mrs. Tosha Thornton, recently organized a fun-filled Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week to recognize and celebrate the hard work and dedication of employees across the district. This year's "Decades of Dedication" theme brought excitement and energy to campuses with themed dress-up days, special treats, raffles, meals, and prizes for faculty and staff throughout the week. Employees enjoyed activities such as Wacky Wednesday, decade-themed outfits, and opportunities to win prizes while spending time together and celebrating the important role each person plays in supporting students and schools each day.

In partnership with many generous community businesses and sponsors, the District Wellness Team was able to provide meals, treats, giveaways, and special surprises throughout the week. Community partners included: Peach State Health Plan, Coastal Plains CASA, Wanees Lake Golf Course, Make It Factory, Councilman Sheldon Smith, Sweet T's Restaurant, Gardenia Boutique, French Market Boutique, Carroll's Sausage, Fired Up Nutrition, Ashburn Department of Public Safety, Farm Bureau of Turner County, Farmers Furniture, Pancho's Restaurant

Their support helped make the celebration extra meaningful for teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, nutrition staff, custodians, office staff, administrators, and all employees across the district. The District Wellness Team continues to play an important role in supporting staff morale, promoting wellness, and building positive school culture throughout Turner County Schools, and the district is grateful for everyone who helped make the week such a success.



## SPED Staff Celebrated During Appreciation Week

During Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, Turner County Schools Special Education Director Sonya Mizell helped create excitement and encouragement within the Special Education Department by hosting daily prize drawings for staff members throughout the week. Each day, two employees were selected to receive special gifts as a way to recognize their hard work, dedication, and commitment to supporting students across the district.

The daily drawings brought smiles, gratitude, and excitement to staff members while helping foster a positive and uplifting atmosphere within the department. Employees were appreciative of the thoughtful recognition and enjoyed celebrating together throughout the week. Turner County Schools is grateful for the dedication of our Special Education staff and for leaders like Mrs. Mizell who continue finding meaningful ways to support and encourage employees.



## Seamless Summer Meals Return to Turner County Schools

The Turner County School Nutrition Program is excited to announce that the Seamless Summer Option is back to help ensure children in our community have access to nutritious meals throughout the summer months. All children 18 years old and younger can enjoy FREE breakfast and lunch this summer through school and community meal sites. Turner County Elementary School will offer breakfast Monday through Friday, while Turner County Middle/High School will offer breakfast Monday through Thursday. Breakfast will be served from 7:30–8:00 a.m., and lunch will be available from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Meals are required to be eaten on site. Students attending summer school will receive meal kits to take home for additional days throughout the week.

Community meal sites will operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with meal kits containing multiple breakfasts and lunches available for pickup. Parents and guardians may pick up meals for children

who are not attending summer school. Families are encouraged to download the FoodFinder app or visit [FoodFinder](#) to locate nearby meal sites and access additional information. For questions or concerns, please contact School Nutrition Director Artemio Gomez at 229-613-0154. Turner County Schools believes no child should go hungry during the summer, and we are proud to continue supporting students and families through this important program.

# Summer Meals

are available at no cost  
to children 18 & under

**Elementary and high school will operate Monday – Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Community sites will be open Tuesday and Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>–30<sup>th</sup>, except the first week of July**

## Monday–Friday Meal Sites

Turner County Elementary School (TCES)

705 Hudson Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714

Breakfast: 7:30–8:00 AM

Lunch: 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Turner County Middle/High School (TCMHS)

316 Lamar Street, Ashburn, GA 31714

Breakfast: 7:30–8:00 AM

Lunch: 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

## Tuesday & Thursday Community Meal Sites

**10:45–11:00 AM**

Clark Food Mart

642 W. Madison Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714

Joe Davis Trailer Park

1042 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Ashburn, GA 31714

Sycamore Park

100 S. Labelle Ave, Sycamore, GA 31910

**11:05–11:20 AM**

New Providence Missionary Baptist

531 W. Washington Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714

Shealy Street Apartments

232 Shealy Street, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:10–11:25 AM**

Eureka Heights

1060 W. Washington Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:20–11:35 AM**

Village Green Apartments

715 Teresa Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:25–11:40 AM**

Tom Whisett Park

424 S. Jefferson Street, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:30–11:45 AM**

Tabernacle Splash Pad

300 Block East Madison, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:45–12:00 PM**

Orchard Hill

713 Old S. Main Street, Ashburn, GA 31714

**11:50 AM–12:05 PM**

Turner Lane Apartments

31714 Don Sylvan Drive, Ashburn, GA 31714

Parking Lot at Lee Street

217 Hardin Ave, Ashburn, GA 31714



## SSAC Wraps Up a Successful Year

Turner County Schools recently concluded the final Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting of the 2025–2026 school year, bringing together student leaders from grades 5–12 for a meaningful session focused on leadership, advocacy, and student voice. Throughout the year, SSAC members worked to strengthen student leadership across the district while helping provide input and ideas to support positive school culture and future opportunities for students. During the final meeting, students continued their leadership study of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and participated in collaborative discussions and activities centered around responsibility, communication, leadership, and school improvement.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the launch of Turner County Schools' first-ever student-led district time capsule project, which will include contributions from students across all grade levels and remain sealed until 2036. Students also had the opportunity to hear from Rachel Kinsaul, Georgia's 2026 Teacher of the Year and finalist for National Teacher of the Year, who spoke about leadership, service, and making a positive impact within schools and communities. Turner County Schools is proud of the leadership, collaboration, and dedication demonstrated by SSAC members throughout the year and looks forward to the continued impact these student leaders will make across the district.





## 2026-2027 School Year Calendar

| Jul-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 12     | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19     | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26     | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| Aug-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| Sep-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 27     | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

## Important Dates

July 21-23 - Teacher Academy  
July 27-30 - Pre-Planning  
July 29 - Meet Your Teacher Night  
July 31 - First Day of School  
Sept 7 - Labor Day Holiday  
Sept 8 - Staff In-Service Day/Student Holiday

| Oct-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| Nov-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| Dec-26 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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Oct 7 - Report Cards and Open House  
Oct 8 - Early Release Day  
Oct 9-12 - Fall Break  
Oct 13 - Staff In-Service Day/Student Holiday  
Nov 23-27 - Thanksgiving Breaking  
Dec 17 - Early Release Day/End of Semester  
Dec 18-31 - Christmas Break

| Jan-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| Feb-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| Mar-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 28     | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

Jan 1 - New Year Holiday  
Jan 4 - Staff In-Service Day/Student Holiday  
Jan 7 - Open House  
Jan 18 - MLK Holiday  
Feb 15 - Presidents Day Holiday  
Feb 16 - Staff In-Service Day/ Student Holiday/Parent-Teacher Conference  
March 25 - Report Cards  
March 26 - Student & Staff Holiday (FIRE ANT FESTIVAL)

| Apr-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 18     | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
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| May-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 30     | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

| Jun-27 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 20     | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27     | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

April 5-9 - Spring Break  
May 21 - Early Release Day & Last Day of School  
May 24-25 - Post Planning

## CALENDAR LEGEND

- First Day of School for Students
- Early Release Day/Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- Student & Staff Holiday
- Teacher Inservice/Student Holiday
- Report Cards and/or Open House

Board Approved: 2/9/2026

## Elementary News



## Summer Read-A-Thon Launches at TCES

Turner County Elementary School is excited to launch its Summer Read-A-Thon for all K-5 students in partnership with the Kiwanis Club and Rotary Club. Through this literacy initiative, every elementary student received a brand-new book to encourage reading throughout the summer months. Members from both organizations visited campus to read with students and help distribute books, making the kickoff extra special and exciting for students. Turner County Schools

Teacher Support Specialist Ms. Darcy Rainey and Victoria Evans Memorial Library Children and Youth Coordinator Anisha Leonard also shared information about the Read-A-Thon and distributed flyers explaining how students can participate.

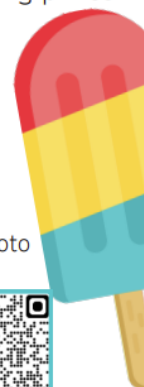
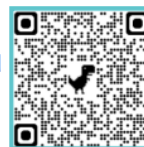
Students will have from now until July 31st to track their reading using the provided link or QR code, and the students who read the most will receive prizes when they return to school in the fall. TCES knows the importance of keeping students engaged in reading over summer break, as reading just 20 minutes a day can expose children to nearly 1.8 million words each year. Research also shows that students who regularly read and are read to are more likely to perform better academically, while students who do not read during long breaks can experience declines in reading fluency and comprehension. TCES is proud to continue promoting a strong culture of literacy both inside and outside the classroom.



Make the most of your summer break with a great book, because good readers never take a break from adventure! Track your reading from May 14th to July 31<sup>st</sup> to earn exciting prizes.

## HOW IT WORKS:

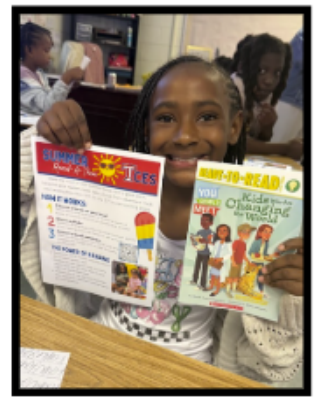
- 1 Choose a book on your level**  
Take a trip to the local library to explore a variety of books, or choose a favorite you already have at home!
- 2 Share a photo**  
Comment on the Read-A-Thon Facebook post with a photo of you reading alone, with family, or with a friend!
- 3 Submit a book summary**  
After you finish a book, scan the QR code and complete the Google form in order to qualify to win prizes!



## THE POWER OF READING

- Reading for just 20 minutes a day exposes kids to 1.8 million words a year!
- Children who are regularly read to and who read on their own are more likely to score higher on standardized tests.
- Students who do not read over long breaks often experience a decline in reading fluency and comprehension.



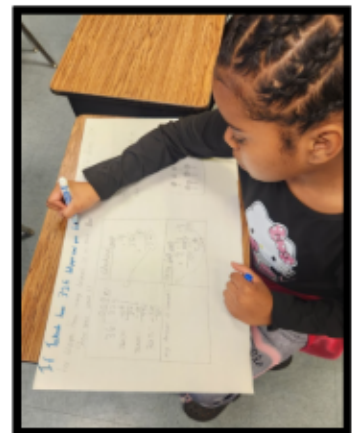
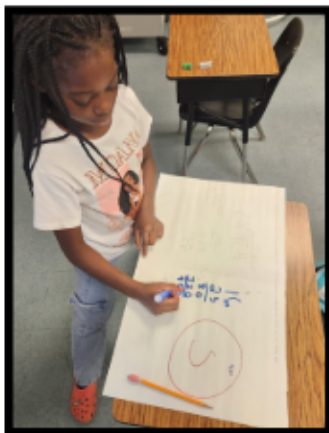



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## 21st Century Learning Lagoon Summer Camp Returns

Turner County Schools is excited to offer the 21st Century Learning Lagoon Summer Camp once again this summer for current 1st through 5th grade students. The completely free program will run from June 1–26 and is designed to provide students with engaging academic enrichment, hands-on activities, and meaningful learning experiences throughout the summer months. The 21st Century program focuses on supporting student growth through high-quality educational opportunities while helping students strengthen essential academic skills in a safe and supportive environment.

This summer, students will enjoy weekly field trips, creative activities connected to reading and learning, and targeted academic support focused on foundational skills. In partnership with the public library, the program will also encourage family literacy through summer reading activities and prize opportunities for both students and parents. Tuesdays will feature special library events and activities, while Wednesdays and Thursdays will allow students to participate in creative projects inspired by their reading experiences. Turner County Schools is grateful to Program Director Algenard Bryant, Site Coordinator Martessia Wood, and all staff members working to provide students with a fun, enriching, and educational summer experience.




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## TCES Participates in YMCA Water Safety Program

Each year, Turner County Elementary School second grade students travel to the YMCA of Tifton to participate in the Safety Around Water program, and this year's experience was filled with excitement, learning, and lots of smiles. Students eagerly participated in activities designed to help them become more comfortable and confident around water while learning important safety skills that could one day save lives.

Throughout the program, students learned basic swimming techniques, water safety rules, and strategies for responding in water-related situations. The hands-on experience gave students the opportunity to practice new skills in a safe and encouraging environment while having fun with classmates. Programs like this continue to provide valuable life lessons for TCES students while promoting health, wellness, and safety at an early age.

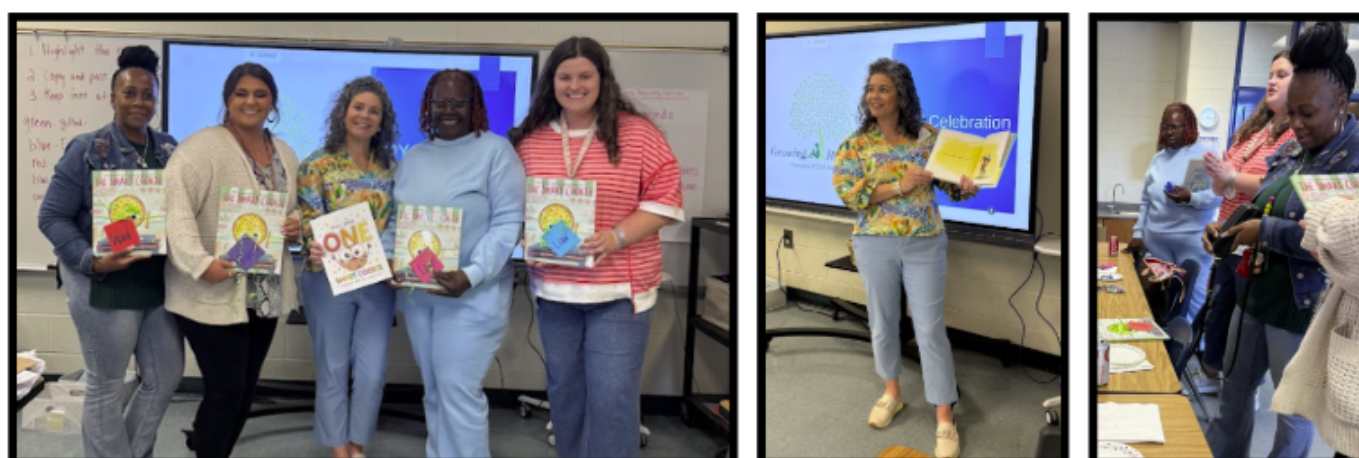


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## Reflecting on a Year of Growing Readers Success

Turner County Elementary School recently hosted its end-of-year Growing Readers meeting, providing teachers an opportunity to reflect on the first year of implementation, celebrate successes, and recognize the impact educators have made on student literacy growth. Throughout the year, teachers participated in professional learning focused on evidence-based reading instruction, explicit teaching strategies, small-group instruction, and Science of Reading practices designed to help more students read on grade level. The Growing Readers initiative is a statewide RESA partnership supported by the Georgia Department of Education and Governor's Office of Student Achievement that equips teachers with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to strengthen literacy instruction.

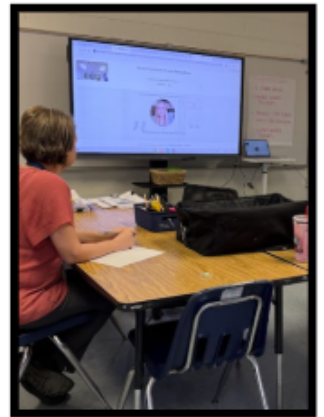
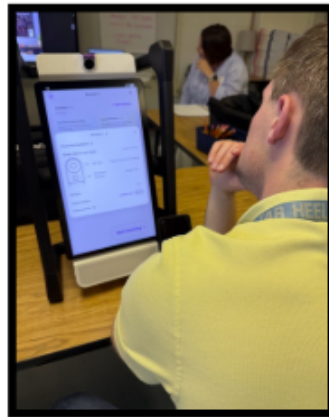
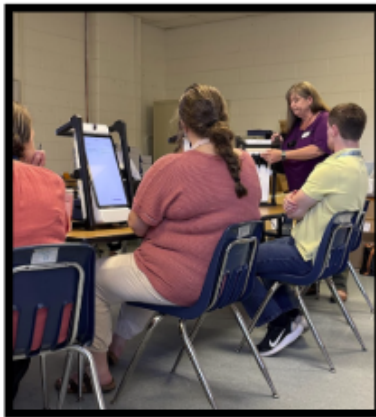
Over the past several years, Coastal Plains RESA Growing Readers Specialist Stephanie Butler has worked closely with TCES teachers by providing ongoing coaching, classroom support, professional learning sessions, and literacy learning walks. Her support has helped teachers deepen their understanding of effective literacy practices and continue building strong reading foundations for students across grade levels. Turner County Schools is grateful for the partnership with Coastal Plains RESA and proud of the dedication our teachers continue to show in growing confident, capable readers.



## Literacy in Action at TCES

Three teachers from Turner County Elementary School are participating in the M2 Enabled Reflective Literacy Coaching program through Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and Coastal Plains RESA. This professional learning opportunity is designed to strengthen literacy instruction and increase teacher confidence through reflective coaching cycles focused on evidence-based literacy practices and the Science of Reading.

Throughout the program, participating teachers will collaborate with literacy specialists and faculty members while using Swivl M2 classroom video technology to reflect on instructional practices, set goals, and strengthen literacy strategies across all content areas. The experience is centered on professional growth, instructional improvement, and supporting student learning outcomes in rural Georgia schools. Turner County Schools is proud of these educators for continuing to invest in high-quality instructional practices that will positively impact students across our district.



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## Middle School News

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## Spring Band Concert Showcases Student Talent

Families, friends, and community members recently gathered to enjoy the end-of-year middle school and high school band concert led by DeMarcus Cushion. Throughout the evening, talented student musicians showcased the hard work, growth, and dedication they have demonstrated over

the school year through a variety of musical performances. The concert highlighted the progress students have made in their musical abilities and performance skills while giving them an opportunity to share their talents with the community.

The event was filled with smiles, applause, and pride as parents and guardians watched students confidently perform on stage. Community support was evident throughout the evening, creating an encouraging atmosphere that celebrated the accomplishments of Turner County's young musicians. Turner County Schools is proud of the dedication shown by these students and grateful for the leadership and commitment Mr. Cushion brings to the band program each day.



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## TCES Fifth Graders Visit Turner County Middle School

Turner County Elementary School fifth grade students recently visited Turner County Middle School for a transition tour designed to help prepare them for the exciting move to middle school next year. During the visit, students had the opportunity to tour the campus, explore classrooms and common areas, meet teachers and school administrators, and become familiar with the building where they will continue their educational journey. Students were eager and excited as they asked questions and learned more about what to expect as future middle school students.

The transition tour was led by representatives from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Board, who helped guide students throughout the experience and shared helpful insights about life at TCMS. Their leadership and encouragement helped create a welcoming atmosphere that made students feel comfortable and excited about the transition ahead. Opportunities like this help ease student anxieties, build confidence, and create positive connections before students begin the next chapter of their academic careers.



## TCMS 4-H Leaders Inspire Young Readers

Turner County Middle School 4-H student leaders recently volunteered their time to read with first grade students, helping foster a love for reading while making a positive impact on younger students' educational journeys. The experience provided elementary students with an exciting opportunity to hear stories read by older student leaders while building relationships and encouraging literacy in a fun and engaging way.

The students participated under the guidance of Lynn Davis, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Extension Coordinator and 4-H Agent for Turner County. It was wonderful to see older students investing in younger generations by serving as positive role models and leaders within Turner County Schools. Their willingness to give back demonstrated leadership, school pride, and a commitment to helping younger students develop a love for learning and literacy. Opportunities like this continue to strengthen connections between schools while promoting service, encouragement, and a positive school culture across the district.



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## Hands-On Science Fun in Eighth Grade

Eighth grade students recently enjoyed an exciting hands-on STEM activity in Mr. Taylor's science class as they launched marshmallows using homemade catapults they designed and created themselves. Throughout the week, students worked to build both catapults and receiving cups before taking on the challenge of successfully launching marshmallows into their targets. The activity incorporated science concepts students learned throughout the year while encouraging creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and critical thinking. Students had an amazing time testing their designs, making adjustments, and celebrating successful launches during this engaging learning experience. The classroom was filled with excitement and laughter as students experimented with distance, force, and accuracy to improve their catapult designs. Activities like this help bring science concepts to life while making learning fun, interactive, and memorable for students.



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## High School News

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### Senior Field Day Fun

Turner County High School seniors recently enjoyed a fun-filled Senior Field Day on campus as they celebrated the final days of their high school journey together. The event gave seniors an opportunity to relax, make memories, and enjoy time with classmates through outdoor games, fellowship, music, and refreshments. Students enjoyed food, SnoBiz treats, and entertainment provided by a live DJ while spending the day together celebrating their accomplishments and friendships built over the years.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, excitement, and school spirit as seniors participated in activities and reflected on their time at TCHS. For many students, the event served as one of their final opportunities to spend time together on campus before graduation, making the day both exciting and emotional. Seniors shared memories, took photos, and enjoyed soaking in the final moments of their high school experience alongside classmates and friends. Events like Senior Field Day provide students with meaningful opportunities to celebrate their hard work and create lasting memories they will carry with them long after graduation.





## Seniors Take Their Final Walk Through the Halls

Turner County High School seniors recently participated in one of the district's most meaningful traditions as they took their final walk through the halls of Turner County Schools. Lined throughout the hallways, students from Pre-K through 11th grade cheered, clapped, and celebrated the Class of 2026 as seniors made their way through each campus in their caps and gowns. The event was filled with excitement, pride, and emotion as younger students looked up to the graduating class and seniors reflected on the journey that brought them to this milestone moment.

Throughout the walk, many seniors shared special moments reconnecting with former teachers, hugging staff members who impacted their lives, and reminiscing about memories made throughout their years in Turner County Schools. While the event was a celebration of accomplishments and new beginnings, it was also a bittersweet reminder of how quickly the years pass and how deeply connected the Turner County school community truly is. The Senior Walk continues to be a powerful tradition that highlights the lasting relationships, support, and encouragement students receive from their school family from their very first day through graduation.



## TCHS Celebrates Student Achievement During Honors Day

Turner County High School recently hosted its annual Honors Day program, celebrating the hard work, dedication, and accomplishments of students across all grade levels. The evening recognized academic excellence, scholarships, leadership, attendance, CTAE achievements, dual enrollment success, athletic accomplishments, and student involvement in organizations and programs throughout the school year. Families, staff, community members, and scholarship

sponsors gathered together to honor the many students who have excelled both inside and outside the classroom.

One of the most meaningful moments of the evening was the Golden Apple presentations, where honor graduates recognized teachers and staff members who made a lasting impact on their educational journey through encouragement, support, and guidance. Students shared heartfelt stories about the educators who inspired them and helped shape their success over the years. The program also recognized the Class of 2026 Valedictorian, Salutatorian, STAR Student, scholarship recipients, Teacher of the Year, Titan of the Year, and many other outstanding students and staff members. Honors Day continues to be a special tradition that reflects the excellence, pride, and strong relationships that make Turner County High School such a special place.



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### TCHS Senior Recognized as Student of Excellence

Quentin Davis was recently recognized by the Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) as a Student of Excellence for showcasing exemplary resilience, adaptability, and integrity throughout his educational journey. Quentin, a senior at Turner County High School, was honored during a special recognition ceremony held at Coastal Plains Regional Educational Service Agency. Family members, teachers, and friends proudly cheered Quentin on as he received the award and celebrated this well-deserved accomplishment. His positive attitude, determination, and commitment to overcoming challenges have made a lasting impact on those around him. Turner County Schools is incredibly proud of Quentin and the example he sets for others through his perseverance, character, and dedication to success.





## Signing Day Celebrates Bright Futures at TCHS

Turner County High School recently celebrated Signing Day as students took the next step toward their futures and continued their educational journeys beyond high school. Surrounded by family members, teachers, coaches, and friends, students proudly signed letters of intent and made commitments to colleges, universities, military service, and other post-secondary opportunities. The event recognized the hard work, dedication, and determination students have shown throughout their academic careers to reach this important milestone.

The celebration was filled with excitement, pride, and encouragement as students reflected on their accomplishments and looked ahead to new opportunities. Teachers, staff, and families gathered to support students as they announced their future plans and celebrated years of preparation and perseverance. Turner County Schools is proud of each student for their commitment to success and looks forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make in their future careers, educational programs, and communities.



## Supporting Literacy Through Grants

TCHS English Language Arts teacher Susan Johnson was recently awarded a \$500 grant through Teachers Need Us to support classroom instruction and student learning. The grant funding was used to purchase classroom supplies through an Amazon wish list, including pencils, erasers, sticky notes, and a class set of the novel *Tears of a Tiger*. These resources will help support student engagement, literacy instruction, and daily classroom learning activities throughout the school year. Turner County Schools congratulates her on receiving this grant! Her commitment to advocating for her students continues to make a positive impact.



Students in Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) recently had the opportunity to combine creativity and hands-on learning while preparing and molding gummy bears. During the activity, students practiced following directions, measuring ingredients, and working collaboratively while exploring food preparation techniques in a fun and engaging way. Students also learned about kitchen safety, accuracy in measurements, and the importance of patience during the preparation process. Activities like these help students build real-world life skills while creating memorable classroom experiences that make learning both meaningful and enjoyable.



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### Hands-On Learning in Nutrition Classes

Students in all Nutrition classes recently enjoyed a fun and interactive cooking experience with Shannan Stephens as they learned how to prepare their very own Chicago-style pizzas. During the lesson, students practiced measuring ingredients, preparing dough, and following step-by-step cooking procedures while gaining valuable kitchen and nutrition skills. Mr. Stephens demonstrated proper preparation techniques and helped students understand the importance of accuracy and teamwork in the kitchen. Activities like this provide students with real-world culinary experiences while making learning engaging and enjoyable.



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## TITAN College & Career Academy News

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### Georgia Teacher of the Year Visits Turner County Schools

Turner County Schools was honored to welcome Rachel Kinsaul, the 2026 Georgia Teacher of the Year and finalist for the 2026 National Teacher of the Year, for a special visit across the district. Mrs. Kinsaul serves as an Agricultural Science teacher and FFA advisor at Morgan County High School and made history as the first CTAE teacher ever selected as Georgia Teacher of the Year. During her year of service, she spearheaded the statewide Day of Service initiative on March 18th, in which Turner County Schools proudly participated through a variety of community-based service

projects across the district. Her visit provided students and staff with an inspiring opportunity to learn from an educator who is making a tremendous impact across Georgia.

While visiting Turner County Schools, Mrs. Kinsaul served as a guest speaker for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting, toured the Titan College and Career Academy alongside CTAE Director Mrs. Eva Joiner, and participated in a Transcend career-connected planning meeting with high school teachers, administrators, and the CTAE Director. Throughout the day, she shared valuable insights about leadership, student engagement, career readiness, and the importance of providing meaningful opportunities for students. Turner County Schools greatly appreciated the opportunity to host Mrs. Kinsaul and is thankful for her encouragement, support, and dedication to advancing education and career-connected learning for students across Georgia.



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## Turner County Athletics

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### **Titans Open Spring Football with Strong Performance**

Led by Head Football Coach Demario Barber, the Turner County Titans kicked off spring football action with an exciting night on the field against Atkinson County Rebels following a middle school intersquad scrimmage that gave younger players an opportunity to showcase their hard work and development. The varsity Titans came out strong and held a 34–8 lead at halftime before finishing the night with a 34–14 victory. The team showed strength on both sides of the ball and displayed great effort, discipline, and teamwork throughout the game.

Several players turned in standout performances during the scrimmage. King Bateman was named Overall Player of the Game after recording three receiving touchdowns and one interception. Trayvian King earned Offensive Player of the Game honors with three passing touchdowns and two rushing touchdowns. The entire Titans defense was recognized collectively as Defensive Players of the Game for their disciplined effort and teamwork against a challenging offensive scheme, while Jamarion Walker led the team in tackles. Turner County Schools is proud of the effort shown by Titan football players and coaches as they continue preparing for an exciting upcoming season.



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## TCHS Receives Atlanta United Community Fund Sports Grant

Turner County High School has been selected to receive a special one-time partnership donation through the Atlanta United Community Fund. Through this opportunity, the school's athletic program will receive brand-new soccer and fitness equipment and apparel at no cost to help support student athletes and expand opportunities for physical activity and sports participation. Athletic Director Christopher Raymond applied for the grant to help strengthen resources available for Turner County students.

The donation includes 14 soccer kits filled with equipment such as soccer balls, shin guards, agility equipment, pinnies, ball pumps, water bottles, and various athletic apparel items. In addition, Turner County High School will also receive six Kwik Goal Goalazo portable goals to further enhance training and gameplay opportunities for students. Turner County Schools is grateful for this partnership and excited about the positive impact these new resources will have on students and athletic programs in the future.



**Titan Times Newsletter**



Some articles in this newsletter were drafted with the support of AI tools and reviewed by district staff.

