



OCTOBER 2020, ISSUE 2



CIS/FC BOARD & COLLABORATIVE E-NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF COCHRAN/BLECKLEY COUNTY & FAMILY CONNECTION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP, INC.

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....

Partnerships abound!!!

We are very happy to publish our second CIS/FC Board & Collaborative E-Newsletter and I thank each of you that sent an update this month. I'm sure you are facing challenges with delivering information within your community. Often struggles come from only having one audience and one way to share updates about programs and new services. Please think of our E-Newsletter as another way to "advertise" your programs and services. Our goal is for these digital newsletters and our CIS/FC Facebook presence to continue connecting our families and organizations to local resources during our observance of practicing social distancing.

As you can see from this edition, CIS/FC staff and programs are fully up and running and I could not be prouder of each team member! The level of effort and commitment I witness being delivered to our students and their families is quite inspiring. Each of you is a Wonder Woman every day!

Our next issue will be published electronically in January 2021. All content needs to be sent to Gretchen Tuck at gtuck@bleckleyschools.org. Please send flyers in a PNG format, if possible. We look forward to partnering with you in the months ahead. Cochran-Bleckley County citizens are generous with their resources and we are honored to serve alongside you!



On a personal note....My husband, Jamie and I found out we are going to be grandparents! We are very excited and blessed to have this next chapter begin to unfold in our lives.





THE ACE CLUB-21ST CCLC UPDATE

by Michelle Miller-21st CCLC Family Service Site Coordinator

What a great first nine weeks for 21st Century/ACE Club! Our students are working hard after school on study skills, homework, math skills, and language arts. Attendance has been amazingly high and our enrollment is steadily increasing each week. All of our students, teachers, tutors, and paraprofessionals have done an excellent job in getting this new school year off to a wonderful start. In this edition, I would like to feature our Kindergarten class. Our teachers this year for Kindergarten are super excited about helping our students succeed in the classroom and beyond.



Michelle Miller
21st CCLC Family Service
Site Coordinator

"We utilize lots of music and movement centers and games to practice skills in novel ways."



Ms. DeeYearty



Mrs. Erin Loden

MEET OUR AWESOME 21ST CCLC KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS! MS. DEE YEARTY AND MRS. ERIN LODEN!

A little note from their hearts.....

The year is off to a great start for Kindergarten 21st Century. When approaching the start of the new year, we knew we wanted to focus on building an engaging and fun learning environment and develop a sense of community. We utilize lots of music and movement centers and games to practice skills in fun and novel ways. We also prioritize relationships by helping each student see him or herself as capable, valued, and successful. We started having a 21st Century Student of the Week to encourage good behavior and each student working to the best of their ability. At the beginning of the year, many students were not engaged and were easily discouraged. We heard, "I can't", or " I don't know how to read" over and over again. We have worked hard to help our students see that they are capable and we are there to support and guide them.

We provide opportunities for success while teaching the value to be found in making mistakes and working through hard things. Every week we learn more about our students. We love watching their confidence grow and seeing all the progress they are making as they are becoming a little class family. We love their laughs while singing favorite songs and watching their eyes light up after mastering a skill they have learned. We are not the only ones noticing their gains. Another teacher stopped me in the hallway to comment on the improvements in some of the students. We also have a 21st Century Google Classroom that we have been using from the beginning. All of the learning songs, web links, and Google slide activities are saved to be a resource for possible quarantine or school closures.

RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTER UPDATE

Written by: Mrs. Regina Smith
RHND Regional Director

Your Rural Health Team has been extremely busy since the beginning of school in Bleckley, Dodge, Tattnall and Turner Counties. Our request for a No Cost Extension through June 30, 2021 was successfully submitted and approved. Since then we have been working diligently to continue to meet the following goals and objectives in each county.

1. Provide school based behavioral health services
2. Provide dental health services
3. Review and update clinical protocols
4. Provide primary and specialty care through the use of telemedicine and tele counseling services through secure, HIPPA compliant modems
5. Develop an effective sustainability plan to continue providing our school based health services to children after June 30, 2021 when the rural health no cost extension period ends.

September 30, 2020 marked the end of the first quarter and our evaluation measures were submitted to our evaluator for analysis. The first quarter report, which will include all counties, will be available for review in just a few weeks.

Our clinical protocols have been reviewed and updated in each county and we submitted and were approved to receive a new \$1.4 million dollar grant for FY21 to continue to sustain many of our services including behavioral health, primary and specialty care. This program was awarded under the US Department of Health and Human Services but at this time is unfunded in the current federal budget. We will be notified if funds are made available in the signed federal budget. We have until June 30, 2021 for this to take place. With the current political climate, it could certainly go either way. We will be able to continue telemedicine, dental and tele counseling without additional funds but our school based mental health therapist position will not be funded.



On a local level, here in Bleckley County we are off to a great start as our numbers indicate the following results since school beginning

August 10th :

School Nurses visits = **8,188**

Telemedicine visits primary care = **6**

Dental Visits = **107**

Current Caseload school based

Mental Health Therapist = **56**

Tele counseling visits = **9**



MORE FROM MRS. REGINA SMITH



I would like to share two success stories with you – First, our behavioral health specialist, Tamiko Owens received her full license as a LPC – Licensed Practical Counselor this past summer. Tamiko does a fantastic job as is evident by my second short story to share

A student Tamiko has been serving for some time now sent her a thank you note for ***“always being there and believing in her”***. She goes on to say that is the reason she is becoming ***“more successful at school and in life because of having the opportunity to work with someone as caring as Tamiko”***.



Tamiko Owens

RHND

Mental Health Specialist



WRAPPING UP ABSTINENCE AND LIFE SKILL EDUCATION AT BLECKLEY COUNTY HIGH!

Result: The students love it!

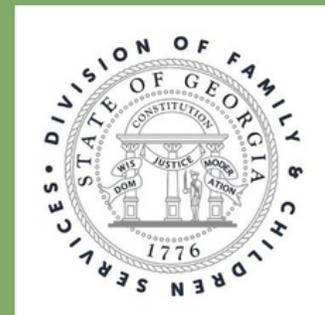
Abstinence Educator Laura Knox was awarded the 2020-2021 SRAE Continuation Grant, and she began delivering content to 9th graders on September 3. Teaching at the high school was a wild adventure during quarantines and the high school's transition to an A/B schedule, but many of her students stepped up to the challenge.

Abstinence & Youth Development curriculum covers so much ground, and she was able to help coach her students to understand and pay attention to their GPA, learn about budgeting, appropriately email teachers, set goals for the future, and improve their communication skills to be successful in life. One of her students remarked, "Why doesn't anybody else teach us this kind of stuff? These are things you need to know for your whole life!" After completing 9th grade curriculum at the end of September, Laura began teaching at the Middle School, where she will be for 14 weeks. In the Youth Development side of her program, Laura is working to reach her goal of developing leaders in our local community. She is working with Gretchen Tuck at BCMS to begin leadership development enrichment activities with the middle school 21st Century students. Laura is also working with CTSO (Career & Technical Student Organizations) at BCHS to support leadership development at the high school level, including speaking to a group of CTSO students on leadership development principles.

"Why doesn't anybody else teach us this kind of stuff?"
~BCHS student



Laura Knox
CIS/FC Abstinence Education
Coordinator
BCMS/BCHS



Serving:
BCHS-66 students
BCMS- 137- 7th graders
140- 8th graders

I LOVE MY JOB!



As a veteran site coordinator, I can spot anxiety in students a mile away! Middle school is filled with angst, uncertainty and unbelievable peer pressure. Remember your middle school experience? I certainly do..ugggh! You didn't want to wear the wrong shoes, hairstyle or heaven forbid.....not be able to open your locker! Even as a young adult, I had reoccurring nightmares about not being able to open my locker and missing class!

This year, I made a concerted effort to meet and greet new 6th graders during their inaugural introduction to this milestone in life. I continue to celebrate when a combination is memorized, work on organization techniques and enjoy watching confidence beginning to build. A little love goes a long way and I was very touched to find these notes in my school mailbox this week from several 6th grade students.

I found out one of my students was moving in a week. I began to think about what resources we had on hand that could aid in the transition. Then I remembered I had a little suitcase that had been sitting on my shelf for about 2 years and this situation made it quite evident who the new owner was supposed to be! Whoever donated it long ago surely had no idea what joy and comfort it would bring to this little child. I wouldn't have the ability to reach out to students in this way without your generous monetary or tangible donations. We are quite blessed to have such an amazing CIS/FC Board and community partners that believe in the statement.... "*whatever it takes*" to help a child.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve students at Bleckley County Middle School.

"Thank you for always being there for me. Without all your supplies students wouldn't be prepared for school when we need something. Thank you for all your help."

"You are kind and you keep me company when I am opening my locker in the afternoon or the morning."



Gretchen Wilson-Tuck-CIS/FC
Site Coordinator-BCMS

August-October 2020

53 students on caseload

4 BCHS Mentors/Mentees

4 BCMS Mentors/Mentees

Health/Hygiene-40 students

Clothing-65 students

School Supplies-135 students

"You help a lot of people and we love you for that."

"You always make and made my day with just a smile. You taught me, if I'm ever feeling low or depressed that I can rely on the notes you leave at my locker!"



Our June-August events have served approximately 2,500 families!

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY EVENTS ARE A BLESSING FOR BLECKLEY COUNTY!

A STATEMENT FROM MIDDLE GEORGIA FOOD BANK:

When children need healthy meals in Food Deserts with limited markets and grocery stores, our team steps up to the plate. A team of committed volunteers and fast response team members work tirelessly to respond to the cry for food from children and families. This program targets rural areas and impoverished communities with few food businesses and healthy food distributors.

The Mobile Food Pantry distributes healthy meals each month with enough nutritional food for an entire family for several days. MGCFB partners with agencies in rural communities to identify families who would benefit to ensure those most in need obtain food. The Mobile Food Pantry serves on average 250 families at each mobile pantry distribution. **We have distributed over 6,281,547 meals utilizing the Mobile Transportation systems to families living in low income and impoverished communities.**





BLECKLEY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL SHOWCASE SCHOOL FOR CAPTURING KIDS HEART

Written by Mrs. Carla Thrower-Principal, BCMS

Capturing Kids Hearts is a national educational program developed by Flip Flippen. The purpose of this program is to facilitate the success of students and teachers in the classroom. All of our teachers and paraprofessionals have been trained by CKH trainers on how to implement the program. This is BCMS's third year incorporating the resources given to us by CKH. Last year, Bleckley County Middle School was named a National Showcase School for CKH. We were one of two schools in Georgia to receive this honor in the 2019-2020 school year.

"If you have a child's heart, you have a child's mind", a quote and belief of Flip Flippen, founder of this program. There are several components that make up this program. Administrators at BCMS made it mandatory that all teachers implement four non negotiables in their classroom. The four non negotiables that are seen in classrooms are....greeting students at the classroom door, a class social ambassador, a social contract for each class period and a launch while leaving the class. Teachers also have two days set aside in the week that gives students an opportunity to share "something good". Another day is set aside for students to share "worries and concerns". An allotted amount of time is designated for these activities. Students are met at the classroom door by their teacher with a special greeting every day, every period. As a visitor enters the classroom, he is greeted by the class social ambassador for that day. The social ambassador will direct the visitor to the classroom contract. The contract is developed by the students in that particular class. They have listed words of how they would like to be treated at school. (ex. respected, fair, mannerly, etc) If you agree to abide by the social contract, then the person signs it. All members of the class have a part in creating the contract. As the class period ends, the teachers give the students a thought (Launch). It may be a quote, a song playing, something positive to ponder over, etc.

We are far from perfect, but administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals strive each day to make all students feel loved, safe and respected while at BCMS. It is with the tools offered through the CKH program that we work hard at connecting with all students academically and emotionally.



The Georgia Youth Challenge Program

The Georgia Youth Challenge Program is a 17-month program divided into two phases.



There are no direct costs to the youth or families beyond bringing a limited amount of required personal items. The Georgia Youth Challenge Program provides all food, clothing, housing and equipment required to participate in the program.

Job Skills



PHASE I: Residential Phase

- 2 weeks of Initial Acclimation
- 5 months long (20 weeks of program)
- Quasi-military environment
- Disciplined and structured
- Cadets Learn by Doing

Focus is on the 8 Core Components:

- Academic Excellence
- Physical Fitness
- Leadership/Followership
- Health and Hygiene
- Life-Coping Skills
- Responsible Citizenship
- Service to Community
- Job Skills

PHASE II: Post-Residential Phase

- 12 months following graduation
- Matched with a mentor to monitor progress
- A detailed Post-Residential Action Plan
- Monthly progress reports
- Focus on your personal successful future



Academic



Excellence



Mentoring



Leadership



Followership



WE'RE MOVING!

The Bleckley DFCS Office is relocating
October 15, 2020

Our new address is:
**137 S. Sixth St.
Cochran, GA 31014**

For the safety of our customers and staff, please use the self-service options below to access DFCS services at this time:

Apply for food stamps, Medicaid and TANF benefits:

Visit gateway.ga.gov

Download an application:

Visit <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/services>

Contact us at: 478-934-3172

or call DFCS Customer Contact Center at 877-423-4746

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT):

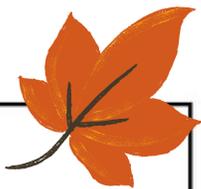
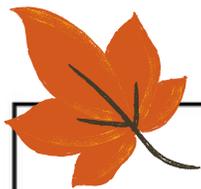
Visit <https://www.connectebt.com/gaebtclient>

Call 888-421-3281 for updates

Mail applications to:

Applications and verification for SNAP/food stamps, Medicaid and TANF should be completed online or mailed to: 137 S. Sixth St. Cochran, GA 31014





Heart of Georgia Community Action Agency

Heating Assistance Available

Bleckley County

Households where **all** members are **65 years of age or older** may contact the service center listed below for an appointment or to be placed on a waiting list beginning on November 2, 2020.

November 2nd- Bleckley --478-934-4012

*****Phone Call Only*****



****General Public 64 years of age and under****

If funds remain, **All** income eligible households may contact the local service center listed below for an appointment or to be placed on a waiting list beginning on December 1, 2020.

December 1st- Bleckley 478-934-4012

*****Phone Call Only*****

Appointments are made by call in only NO walk-ins.





MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

(DO NOT ENTER FROM 2ND ST. OR DYKES STREET)

WEDNESDAY! OCTOBER 28, 2020

9:30 a.m.

SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!

PLEASE STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE UPON ARRIVAL

THE FOOD PICK UP LINE IS LOCATED
AT THE COTTON MUSEUM GAZEBO
BEHIND THE COCHRAN-BLECKLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
102 N. 2ND STREET-COCHRAN

PLEASE COME FIRST SERVE LAST



WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO PACK BOXES?

Join Us!

CALL PAM MOORE

AT 934-4300

or arrive on site at 9:00 AM

Lamp Post Decoration Application

Help the City of Cochran Downtown Development Authority spruce up downtown. We want to invite you to decorate a lamp post with a fall themed decoration. Your creation will be on display to greet drivers and pedestrians to the downtown area from Friday October 30, 2020 until Tuesday December 1, 2020. Just follow these simple rules and guidelines and let your creative juices start flowing! We recommend keeping this sheet to refer back to the guidelines if needed.

- You must place your decoration on your assigned lamp post. Lamp posts are numbered at the bottom.
- Signs are welcome but it must be attached and no larger than 18" X 24".
- We recommend using wire or zip ties and/or hay bales to secure your decorations. If you use hay bales, we ask that you limit it to two bales. **NO TAPE OR ADHESIVES OF ANY TYPE ON THE LAMP POST.**
- Check on your decoration periodically to ensure it has not fallen.
- **ABSOLUTELY** No political related signage is allowed on or around the display.
- Display should not impede the flow of sidewalk traffic.
- Display placement needs to be completed by Friday Oct. 30, 2020.
- All decorations must be completely removed by Tuesday December 1, 2020
- After the application has been received a lamp post will be assigned
- For questions, call (478) 934-2965 or email: rlloyd@cityofcochran.com

Name: _____

Business/Organization (if applicable): _____

Description: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____





CELEBRATE FALL COVID-STYLE!



**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**



**PUMPKIN DECORATING
CONTEST**



**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Sunday October 25th
Drop in from 5:00-6:00pm**

You are invited to join us as we celebrate Fall Covid-style!

Enter your creatively carved or decorated pumpkins for a chance to win fun prizes! Even if you are not entering a pumpkin, we encourage you to come and see the ones displayed. Trunk or Treat will be held from 5:00 until 6:00 pm while the pumpkins are being judged! Before you leave, make sure to grab a bagged hotdog supper to go.

- All pumpkins must be decorated or carved offsite.
- Decorated pumpkins can be delivered Sunday October 25th, from 9:30 - 10:45 am or right before judging begins at 5:00 pm.
- All participants must fill out a Registration/Entry card either before or at the time of entry.
- One entry per person
- Deliver pumpkins under the pavilion next to the playground.
- Any pumpkins not picked up by 6:00pm will be discarded.
- Pumpkins will be judged by age categories.
- Winners from each category will be awarded a prize at the 6:00 pm pick-up time. (If you are not present at that time, someone will contact you.)
- Due to COVID-19, all meals are for carry-out.

PUMPKIN DECORATING/CARVING ENTRY FORM

CHILD'S NAME: _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

SELECT A CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE)

Ages 3-5

Ages 6-8

Ages 9-11

Ages 12-14



BLECKLEY COUNTY

001-FG, 002-FG, 003-FG, 005-FG, 006-FG, 007-FG, 008-FG, 009-FG, 011-FG, 012-FG, 013-FG, 014-FG, 016-FG, 018-FG

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE/PROVISIONAL/EMERGENCY BALLOT

OFFICIAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA NOVEMBER 3, 2020

INSTRUCTIONS:

To Vote

1. Use black or blue ink to mark the ballot
2. Completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the candidate name or choice in all races you wish to vote
3. If voting for a Write-In candidate, completely fill in the empty oval to the left of the Write-In selection, then write the name of the write-in candidate in the space provided

Warning

- Do **NOT** use red ink or felt tip pen to mark ballot
- Do **NOT** circle, underline or mark through choices
- Do **NOT** use check marks or X to mark ballot
- Do **NOT** mark more choices per race than allowed
- Do **NOT** sign, cut, tear or damage the ballot

If you make a mistake or change your mind on a selection:

- A. Do not attempt to mark through the selection or attempt to erase. Write "Spoiled" across the ballot and across the return envelope
- B. Mail or return the spoiled ballot and envelope to your county board of registrars; a new official absentee ballot will be mailed to you

If you decide to vote in-person: Surrender the ballot to the poll manager of an early voting site within your county or the precinct to which you are assigned. You will then be permitted to vote a regular ballot

**I understand that the offer or acceptance of money or any other object of value to vote for any particular candidate, list of candidates, issue, or list of issues included in this election constitutes an act of voter fraud and is a felony under Georgia law.* [O.C.G.A. 21-2-284(e), 21-2-285(h) and 21-2-383(b)]*

<p>For President of the United States (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump - President Michael R. Pence - Vice President (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joseph R. Biden - President Kamala D. Harris - Vice President Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jo Jorgensen - President Jeremy "Spike" Cohen - Vice President Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For United States Senate (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> David A. Perdue (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jon Ossoff Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Shane Hazel Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>	<p>SPECIAL ELECTION</p> <p>For United States Senate (To Fill the Unexpired Term of Johnny Isakson, Resigned) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Al Bartell Independent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Allen Buckley Independent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Doug Collins Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John Fortuin Green</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Derrick E. Grayson Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Michael Todd Greene Independent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Annette Davis Jackson Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Deborah Jackson Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jamesia James Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A. Wayne Johnson Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Tamara Johnson-Shealey Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Matt Lieberman Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kelly Loeffler (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joy Felicia Slade Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Brian Slowinski Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Valencia Stovall Independent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ed Tarver Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kandiss Taylor Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Raphael Warnock Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Richard Dien Winfield Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>	<p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Jason Shaw) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jason Shaw (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robert G. Bryant Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Elizabeth Melton Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For Public Service Commissioner (To Succeed Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr.) (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lauren Bubba McDonald, Jr. (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Daniel Blackman Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nathan Wilson Libertarian</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For U.S. Representative in 117th Congress From the 8th Congressional District of Georgia (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Austin Scott (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Lindsay Holliday Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p> <p>For State Senator From 20th District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Larry Walker (Incumbent) Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Julius Newberry Johnson Democrat</p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-in</p>
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SAMPLE