



the BUZZ

AUGUST
2019



Thomas County Board of Education Newsletter

Jill Grimes Named System Teacher of the Year

Thomas County School System officials have named Jill Grimes, first grade teacher at Garrison-Pilcher Elementary School, as the District Teacher of the Year.

"Being named Teacher of the Year for the Thomas County School System is such an honor," Mrs. Grimes said. "I am incredibly grateful to work with the most amazing and supportive colleagues. Our system is composed of phenomenal people on every level. The support of my coworkers, family, and friends

is what has shaped me into the educator I am today. To represent our system at state will be a privilege."

Grimes has been a teacher for three years with

Thomas County Schools. She graduated from Valdosta State University with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. She is a graduate of Thomas County Central High School and says

she "feels strongly about giving back to the school system that initially instilled a love of learning in her."



GRIMES

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

Meet our school and program Leaders!



Cindy Carnes
Director of Nutrition,
BOE



Michele Dechman
Instructional Coord.,
Bishop Hall



Dr. Lauren Duplantis
Health & Wellness
Coord., BOE



Dr. Dale Graham
Director of MERIT &
Math Coord., BOE



Ashley Lane,
Asst. Principal,
Garrison-Pilcher



Jenna Mayhall
Interim Director,
Pathways



Laura Parkerson
ESOL Instructor
BOE



Taurence Phillips
Chorale Teacher,
TCCHS



Richard Potter
Principal, The
Renaissance Center



Joe Regina
Band Director,
TCCHS

CONGRATULATIONS, Teachers of the Year!



Erin Wright
Hand-In-Hand



Blaine Brooks
Cross Creek



Mandy West
TCMS



Amy Ponder
TCCHS



Chad Ward
Bishop Hall

The Teacher of the Year (TOTY) process began in February. School winners were judged on a written application and an interview before an impartial committee. Judges submitted independent ratings for each candidate, and the person with the highest overall average was named District TOTY.



Amy Robinson
Asst. Principal,
Cross Creek



Clay Stanaland
Principal,
TCMS



Kristen Swan
Asst. Band Director,
TCCHS



Jamie Thompson
Principal,
Cross Creek



Susan Weakland
Coordinator,
Pathways



Erin White
MERIT Coord.,
TCCHS



David Young
Young Farmer Teacher,
TCCHS

Welcome
to the
Yellow
Jacket
Family!



Thomas County Schools Wins Pupil Transportation Safety Award from Georgia DOE



David Goff, from left, Bus Shop Supervisor, Janet Goff, Transportation Secretary, Marzella Raines, CDL Trainer Coordinator, Marion Jackson, CDL Trainer, and Robert Young, Transportation Coordinator, proudly display the Pupil Transportation Safety Award.

Thomas County Schools received the Blue Award after being evaluated on a number of factors that impact bus safety. Those factors included but are not limited to: completing safety training, evacuation drills, and other safety initiatives with students; evaluation of accidents and internal practices to prevent accidents; and innovative initiatives used to inspire safe practices, hire and retain drivers, and enhance student safety.

"So much has to happen to make our school buses as safe as possible for our students," Thomas County's Associate Superintendent for Student Services Scott James said. "The fact that the

Transportation Department for Thomas County Schools received this state-wide recognition says quite a lot about the extent to which we go to keep our students safe. The award is a result of a complete team effort including the administrative staff, training department, service department, and of course the drivers who take care of the students every day. This is just one more example of why Thomas County is a premier school system in Georgia."

Winners were selected in eight divisions based on enrollment size, and the winning districts were selected by a panel of judges.

CPR and First Aid will be offered from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Hand-In-Hand Primary School on the following dates:

August 27, 2019 CPR

September 17, 2019 First Aid

Please sign up on PDEpress to attend one of these classes or to see others offered!



Superintendent Dr. Lisa Williams presents a plaque to Dr. Dale Graham at the system-wide faculty meeting.

Graham Recognized for 50 Years of Service to Public Education

At its opening system-wide faculty meeting, the Thomas County School System honored Dr. Dale Graham for fifty years of service to education.

"Dr. Dale Graham has reached a milestone that few in our profession reach, and it is important for us to celebrate that achievement," said Superintendent Dr. Lisa Williams.

The school system commissioned a special plaque to hang permanently in the lobby of the administration building at the board of education complex to honor Dr. Graham's "first 50 years of service." Graham was awarded a smaller version of this plaque to keep.

The plaque acknowledges that she began her public school teaching career in 1969. Over the course of the last fifty (50) years, Graham has served public education for thirty (30) years and private and post-secondary

institutions for twenty (20) years. During that time, she has been named STAR teacher eight times. She has also co-authored six children's mathematics books, and has established exemplary programs for gifted and talented students that have expanded opportunities for thousands of students across several school districts.

Graham has developed grants for the City of Thomasville, the YMCA, Phoebe Hospital, and the Thomasville Cultural Center.

The plaque reads in part, "through her teaching and leadership, she has positively impacted every major educational institution in Thomas County including the Thomas County School System, the Thomasville City School System, Brookwood School, Thomas University and Thomas Technical Institute which is now known as Southern Regional Technical College."

School System Launches String Orchestra Program

The Thomas County School System is pleased to announce the introduction of a string orchestra program for the 2019-2020 school year serving students in grades 4 -12.

Dr. Boyan Bonev has joined the faculty of Thomas County Schools and will lead the formation of the string orchestra program with classes held during both the school day and after school.

Bonev holds a Doctor of Music degree in String Performance from Florida State University, a Master of Music Degree in String Performance from Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance and Chamber Music from the National Academy of Music in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Bonev has taught at the University of West Florida, Pensacola State College, Albany State University, and Leon High School. He also directs the South Georgia Ballet Orchestra and the Seaside Chamber Players. He has served as the featured conductor for both the South Georgia Ballet Orchestra and the University of West Florida Orchestra.

Bonev said, "I am very excited to join the Yellow Jacket family and start the string orchestra program in Thomas County Schools.

I look forward to building the orchestra program in Thomas County and can't wait to see where the musical journey will take us!"

Thomas County students in grades 5 -12 will have the choice of taking a strings class under Bonev's direction

during the school day each day or as an afternoon class one day each week. Students in grade 4 at Cross Creek Elementary School will be able to take a class each Tuesday and Thursday

afternoon from 3:15 – 4:15 in the music room at the school.

Thomas County Middle School and Thomas County Central High School students may register for a strings class as an elective during the school day or may take an afternoon class to be taught each Wednesday afternoon in the strings classroom at Thomas County Middle School, 3:15 – 4:15.

Superintendent Dr. Lisa Williams stated, "We are building on our already very strong fine arts program as we advance our vision of establishing a fine arts academy within the Thomas County School System that will be second to none in Georgia, and we are excited that the addition of a string orchestra program moves us closer to realizing that vision."



BONEV



STATE BOARD RENEWS BISHOP HALL CHARTER - The State Board of Education has granted Bishop Hall Charter School a new five-year charter. Originally chartered in 1999, Bishop Hall has successfully completed four charter terms and will begin its twenty-first year of operation and its fifth charter term this fall. Bishop Hall largely owes its success to several community partners who have supported the school since its founding including the Singletary Foundation, the Williams Family Foundation, the Flowers Foundation, the Cherokee Foundation, Vashti, First Methodist Church, the Rotary Club, Thomas University, Southern Regional Technical College, Thomas County Schools, and many others. Dr. Terrel Solana, Former Thomas County School System Superintendent and Current Chair of the Board of Bishop Hall Charter School, Dr. Lisa Williams, Thomas County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Verna Wiggins, Bishop Hall Assistant Principal, and Chris Huckans, Bishop Hall Principal, stand outside of Bishop Hall Charter School.



TCCHS FOOTBALL AUGUST 2019

Cairo (Scrimmage)	Aug. 16	7:30 p.m.	TCCHS
Early County	Aug. 23	7:30 p.m.	Blakely
Thomasville	Aug. 30	8:00 p.m.	TCCHS

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