

# The Review: Hart County Schools

Highlights for  
October 2020



## Hartwell Elementary Renovations

Charles Black Construction began work on the Hartwell Elementary School Phase 2 Renovations and Modifications this past week with removal of the breezeway connecting the Media Center building and the Gymnasium. Grading and foundation work will soon be underway to begin construction of the new classroom building.



## Cognia Accreditation Visit

Hart County Charter System is accredited with quality by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), a division of Cognia, formerly AdvancED. District accreditation certifies that the procedures and curriculum used in our schools meet the standards required to preserve the integrity of the schooling process for children. Accreditation ensures that our schools are following accepted, research-based practices for educating and maintaining standards that qualify Hart County graduates for admission to higher or more specialized institutions or for professional practice. The visit is scheduled for Nov. 8-12.

## National School Lunch Week Celebrated

To recognize the National School Lunch Program, serving nearly 30 million children each day, Hart County Schools celebrated National School Lunch Week from Oct. 12-16.



## Georgia School Nutrition Program

School Meals are now free through School Year 2021! The Georgia School Nutrition program announced in October. The group updated their downloadable resource with five great reasons every Georgia student should have school meals as part of their school day. Find it at [bit.ly/GASchoolMeals](https://bit.ly/GASchoolMeals)

## Pre-K Week



Pre-K Week was celebrated at Hart County elementary schools from Oct. 5-9. Above, students at North Hart Elementary School practice creativity and motor skills with hands-on activities.

Upcoming  
Dates

November 23-27, 2020: Thanksgiving Holiday  
December 21, 2020- January 5, 2021: Christmas Holiday Break

## What is PBIS?

As much as HART plays into the everyday outlook of our students and staff, so does this other acronym: PBIS. This is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Hart County is one of 27,000 school systems nationwide, and one of 1,200 school systems in Georgia, that have been trained to utilize PBIS, which proves to save countless hours of discipline training in the classroom and instead devote that time to actually learning.

In order to be considered a PBIS school system, a series of workshops and trainings are held within teams at each school, to make up the proper framework to guide the selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices.

The results of PBIS are seen throughout the school day, in the classroom, in the cafeteria, on the playground, even on the school bus. PBIS basically sets a matrix for what is expected of students, and offers instructors guides for implementing those expectations.

PBIS is an evidence-based ideology based on case studies and research in psychology on how to actually communicate best practices of behavior that not only will help them later in life, it too will save teachers time in the classroom from disciplining students to actually getting their lesson plans across. The majority of PBIS relies on a three-tiered framework, with tier one serving as the basics of what all students need for a solid foundation of behavior. Tier two serves as targeted prevention, and focuses on improving specific skill deficits students may have. This is a smaller group. And the smallest group is tier three, which is support for intensive, individualized prevention of behavioral issues.

Every school in Hart County has a PBIS team designated to framing how PBIS looks in their school. These teams provide feedback to one another about how PBIS is working throughout their school, and constantly try to provide suggestions for extra improvements to maintain a welcome, rewarding school atmosphere.

## Institute to Support High-Leverage Writing Instruction for Students Learning English as a New Language, with a Focus on Stages of Language Acquisition

In early November, elementary ESOL teachers will participate in a virtual, three-day institute designed to support high-leverage writing instruction for students learning English as a new language. Participants will study the phases of language acquisition alongside student writing and conduct a deep dive into student work in order to name strengths, identify next steps, and create instructional plans that support both language and writing development. The professional learning opportunity supports the district's ongoing literacy initiative and the writer's workshop instructional model.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

***"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."***  
**-Nelson Mandela**

# #OneHartBeat

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