



Oconee County Schools Monthly Newsletter October 2021



Oconee County Schools ranked top county school system in GA

OCS has been named the #1 county school system in Georgia by two different national ranking systems - SchoolDigger and Niche.

SchoolDigger bases its ratings on student achievement data. Niche utilizes a variety of factors including academic achievement, culture, resources, extracurricular activities, and more.

Thank you to the support of our teachers, parents, students, leaders, support staff, Board members, and the Oconee community for helping our system achieve sustained excellence!

OCS achieves highest average ACT score in system history

Oconee County Schools has earned an average ACT composite score of 24.4 for the 2021 testing period, well above state and national averages - and the highest-ever overall score achieved by the system. OCS achieved the highest ACT score in Northeast Georgia and is the only system in the region ranked in the state's top 20.

"Our nationally-competitive ACT scores are a reflection of the hard work of our recent graduates, current students, their parents, and their K-12 teachers," said



HIGHEST ACT SCORE IN OCS HISTORY

#5 IN STATE

Superintendent Jason L. Branch.

For more information, please [click here](#).



Four middle school students named REACH Scholars

Four Oconee County middle school students and their parents recently participated in individualized signing ceremonies for each student to officially become a REACH Scholar! The students will each receive a \$10,000 post-secondary scholarship as part of a public/private partnership between the State of Georgia and the Oconee community.

The district's four 2021 REACH Scholars are:

- Keyton Epps – Malcom Bridge Middle School
- Olivia Evans – Malcom Bridge Middle School
- Alfonso Ibarro-Ruiz – Oconee County Middle School
- Laura Grace "Gracie" Meeler – Oconee County Middle School

For more information, please [click here](#).

GreatSchools names NOHS and OCHS as College Success Gold Award recipients

North Oconee High School and Oconee County High School have been honored with the inaugural GreatSchools "College



Success Gold Award" for college preparedness and college achievement among their graduates. Oconee County Schools was the only county school system in Northeast Georgia selected for this honor.

"Congratulations to both North Oconee and Oconee County high schools for receiving the 'College Success Gold Award' based on their proven track records of graduates being well-prepared to succeed at the post-secondary level," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "

For more information, please [click here](#).

National Principals Month



Dr. Katherine Brown
Oconee County Primary



Mr. Tony McCullers
Colham Ferry Elementary



Dr. Grace Staniszewski
Dove Creek Elementary



Ms. Jennifer Whitaker
High Shoals Elementary



Ms. Jennifer Haygood
Malcom Bridge Elementary



Ms. Ashley Templeton
Oconee County Elementary



Ms. Laura Mason
Rocky Branch Elementary



Mr. Mike Eddy
Malcom Bridge Middle



Mr. Keith Carter
Oconee County Middle



Dr. Philip Brown
North Oconee High



Dr. Kevin Yancey
Oconee County High



Happy National Principals Month! We are blessed in Oconee County Schools with these 11 excellent principals. We appreciate all they do in leading our schools.



Meet Me Monday video series

Check out our latest features in this year's "Meet Me Monday" series! This weekly highlight features new and returning faculty, staff, and students. We hope you enjoy taking a few minutes to meet them!

Click [here](#) for all the "Meet Me Monday" videos.



Board Meeting videos online

Monthly Oconee County Board of Education work sessions and regular meetings can be found on the district's [YouTube channel](#).

Meetings will be posted the day following the Board meeting and are also linked from the main page of the Oconee County Schools website, as well as under the Board drop-down link.

The Board of Education playlist on YouTube can be found [here](#).

#SustainedExcellence

North Oconee's Cynthia Moore named District Teacher of the Year



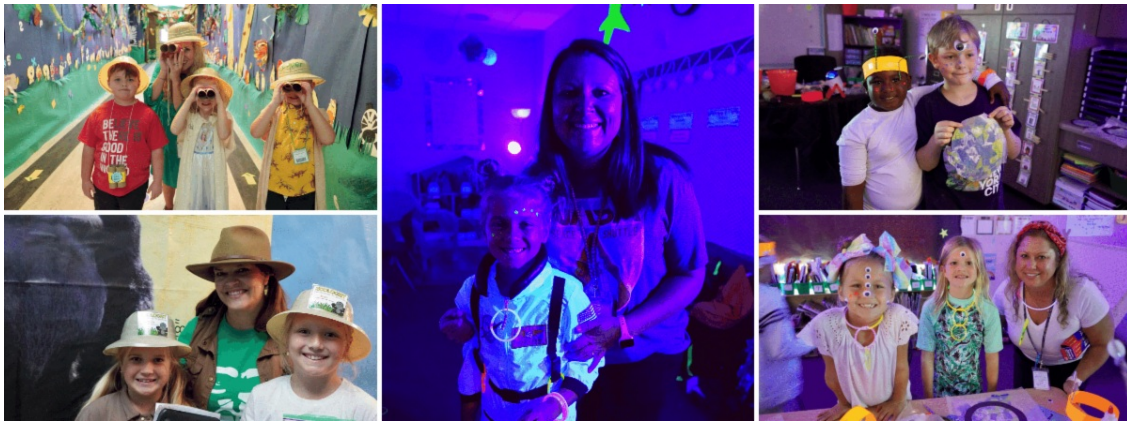
Congratulations to Cynthia Moore, Oconee County Schools' District Teacher of the Year for 2021-22! Mrs. Moore is a teacher at North Oconee High School and was honored with the surprise announcement at the annual Teacher of the Year banquet, held in partnership with the Oconee County High Schools Alumni Association. A big thank you goes to all of this evening's sponsors for their generosity!

Colham Ferry Elementary students learn about monarchs



Colham Ferry Elementary students were in for quite a treat during STEM recently - they learned all about monarch butterflies from UGA Odum School of Ecology professor and monarch expert Dr. Sonia Altizer. There's nothing quite as magical as holding a butterfly, and this incredible experience will be one our students long remember!

Dove Creek Elementary rocks their school



Dove Creek Elementary School rocks! The school held their annual "Rock Your School" event where each grade level creates innovative, immersive, hands-on themed activities. It was nothing short of amazing!



Quick Links for Easy Reference

- [Board Meeting Videos](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [COVID-19 Weekly Status Report](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)
- [Transportation](#)

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