



Oconee County Schools Monthly Newsletter September 2021



OCS top system in Northeast Georgia for SAT achievement

Oconee County Schools has earned a mean SAT composite score of 1133 for the 2021 testing period, well above state and national mean scores. OCS is ranked fifth in the state among county school systems and is the only system ranked in the top 10 in Northeast Georgia.

Said Superintendent Jason L. Branch, "I commend our recent graduates and current students, as well as their parents and K-12 teachers, for these results – which point to academic excellence, resilience, and preparedness for post-secondary success."

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

High Shoals Elementary named 2021 National Blue Ribbon School

High Shoals Elementary School has been named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The nation's most prestigious award for K-12 schools, High Shoals was specifically recognized in the category of exemplary high performance.

Said Superintendent Jason L. Branch, "On behalf of the school system and Board of Education, I offer commendations and congratulations to High Shoals Elementary School for being recognized as a National



Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. This honor reflects what we have long known – HSES sets a national standard of excellence.”

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



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kim Argo named Board Chair; Wayne Bagley appointed to Post 3

At the Sept. 2, 2021 Board of Education called meeting, Board Vice Chair Kim Argo was appointed to the Post 1/Board Chair position. Following that appointment, Amy Parrish was named Board Vice Chair. In addition, the Board nominated former Board member Wayne Bagley to the Post 3 position. All appointments were unanimous.

“I am honored to accept the position of Board Chair, after Tom Odom’s exceptional service to the students and teachers of Oconee County Schools. I look forward to continuing the trajectory of our school system as one of the top systems in both the state and nation, and I am humbled to serve the citizens of Oconee County in this capacity,” said Argo.

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

Seven students named National Merit Semifinalists

Congratulations to our National Merit Semifinalists! These students scored among the nation's highest on their SATs and are also highly engaged in a variety of academic and extracurricular activities. We applaud them - as well as their teachers and parents - for achieving this level of



excellence.

North Oconee High School

Cameran Butryn
Yerahm Hong
Barnabas Li
Catherine Oh
Krish Patel
Fiona Waller

Oconee County High School

Juliana Hayunga

Teachers of the Year



ASHLEY GOLLMER
OCONEE COUNTY PRIMARY



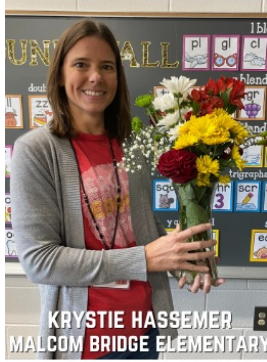
JENNIFER MITCHEM
COLHAM FERRY ELEMENTARY



MAGGIE ALLEN
DOVE CREEK ELEMENTARY



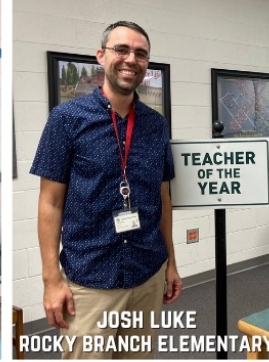
ANNA RANSOM
HIGH SHOALS ELEMENTARY



KRISTIE HASSEMER
MALCOM BRIDGE ELEMENTARY



ERIN CARROLL
OCONEE COUNTY ELEMENTARY



JOSH LUKE
ROCKY BRANCH ELEMENTARY



DENISE MCWHORTER
MALCOM BRIDGE MIDDLE



KRISTEN DONALDSON
OCONEE COUNTY MIDDLE



CYNTHIA MOORE
NORTH OCONEE HIGH



KRISTIN CHAPPELL
OCONEE COUNTY HIGH

**TEACHERS OF
THE YEAR
2021-22**



Congratulations to the 2021-22 Teachers of the Year! These 11 exceptional teachers truly embody excellence and we are so fortunate to have them in our school system. The district winner will be announced at a banquet hosted by the Oconee County High Schools Alumni Association on Sept. 30.



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](#).

Welcome Home, Oconee!

Oconee County High School Victory Day



What an incredible night it was at Oconee County High School for Victory Day! Students from OCHS and its feeder schools were able to score touchdowns, cheer, and play in the band. All concession stand proceeds benefited Oconee Special Olympics. We love our students and applaud all of them for being victorious each and every day!

NOHS student wins NASCAR "DESIGN TO DRIVE" contest



Mary Frances Webb, a student at North Oconee High School, designed NASCAR driver Chase Elliott's car for the Sept. 5 race! This is part of a collaboration with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, NAPA AUTO PARTS, Hendrick Motorsports, and the Chase Elliott Foundation.

Colham Ferry Elementary School unveils book vending machine



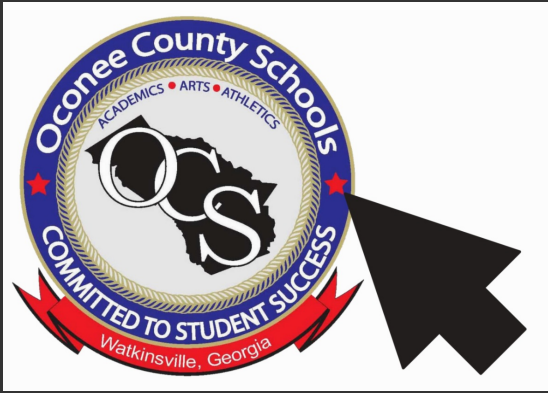
Colham Ferry Elementary School recently unveiled their new book vending machine - made possible with a Walton EMC grant! Students will earn books (to keep) with PBIS Points by demonstrating that they are motivated, safe, and respectful Mustangs.

Oconee County Primary School students celebrate Dot Day



Students at Oconee County Primary School celebrated International Dot Day, inspired by

Peter Reynolds' book "The Dot." Students engaged in a variety of dot-themed activities and are inspired to make their own mark on the world.



Quick Links for Easy Reference

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

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