



#OconeeStrong



November 2020



OCS 2020 graduation rate at 97.5%

Oconee County Schools' four-year graduation rate for 2020 is 97.5%, as recently announced by the Georgia Department of Education. OCS has the highest graduation rate in the state for systems having 300 or more graduates, as well as the #4 rate among county school systems in the state.

"To the Class of 2020, their parents, K-12 teachers, and our support staff and leaders – congratulations on this achievement of a 98% graduation rate," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "This graduation rate is due to the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of our entire school community. I am both honored and humbled to support the world-class students and teachers that make up this system."

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

REACH Scholars named

Four Oconee County 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

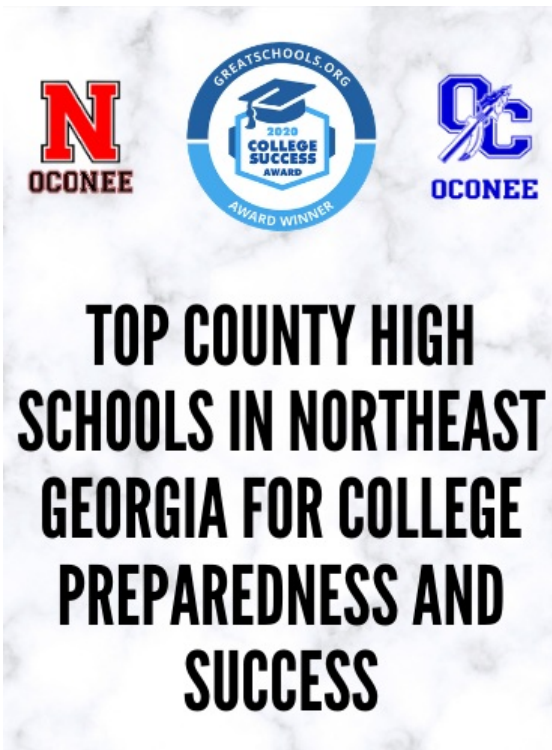


community.

The district's four 2020 REACH Scholars are:

- Jennifer Hernandez-Taboada – Malcom Bridge Middle School
- Shel'be Johnson – Oconee County Middle School
- Brenda Rios – Oconee County Middle School
- Ian Rogers – Malcom Bridge Middle School

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



NOHS and OCHS recognized as top county high schools in GA

Both North Oconee High School and Oconee County High School have once again received the GreatSchools "College Success Award" for college preparedness and college achievement among their graduates. GreatSchools, a national nonprofit, selected Oconee County as the only county system in Northeast Georgia to have schools selected for this honor.

"Oconee County Schools is honored to be recognized with the GreatSchools College Success Award for the third consecutive year," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "This recognition is reflective of the commitment of teachers, students, parents, support staff, and leaders in achieving sustained excellence."

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

No-cost student breakfast and lunch through 2020-21 school year

All Oconee County students will now receive breakfast and lunch at no cost through the end of the school year. The original announcement was through December 2020, but no-cost meals have since been extended for the entire school year.



NO-COST MEALS

EXTENDED THROUGH MAY!

As announced by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, this flexibility is being provided as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. OCS is eligible because the system provided meals at no charge to families from March-July 2020 through the USDA Seamless Summer Program.

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

Thanksgiving Break

We are so grateful for all of you!



THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 23-27, 2020

WE ARE GRATEFUL.



Recap of October-November 2020

What a great fall it's been so far! Check out this short video for highlights from around the school system and all 11 schools.

Click above or [here](#) to check it out!



Keep Oconee Open

COVID-19 case and quarantine information is posted each Friday afternoon on our Opening Oconee webpage located [here](#).

Both in and out of school, the following gives us the best chance to Keep Oconee Open:

- Mask Up, Oconee
- Maintain physical distance
- Stay home when sick
- Sanitize hands regularly

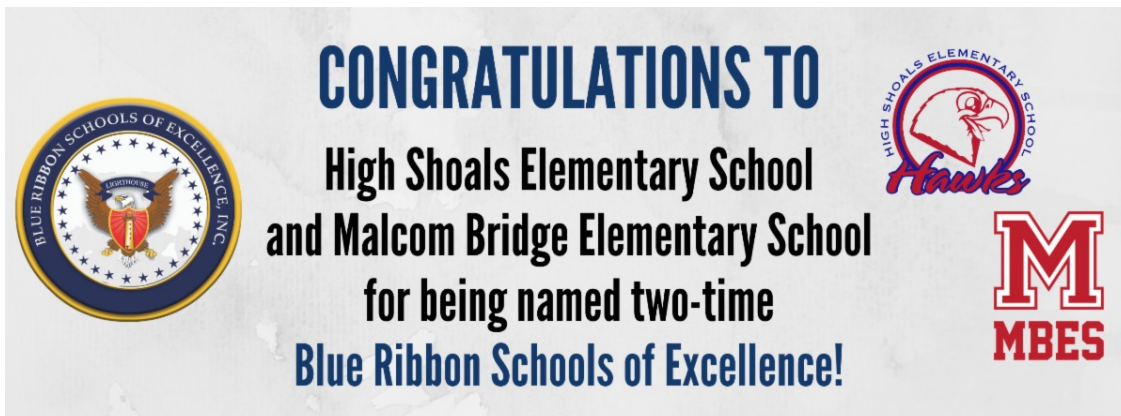
#SustainedExcellence

RBES achieves STEAM certification



Rocky Branch Elementary School has been designated as only the 10th STEAM-certified school in the entire state of Georgia! This well-deserved honor is a reflection of RBES' excellence in STEAM - science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. Curriculum is integrated in the STEAM areas and is driven by exploratory project-based learning and student-centered solutions. Go Rockets!

HSES and MBMS named Blue Ribbon Honor Schools



High Shoals Elementary School and Malcom Bridge Elementary School have both been re-designated as Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools. The schools received the news after successfully completing a rigorous process by national organization Blue Ribbon Schools for Excellence. "Congratulations to the school communities at both High Shoals and Malcom Bridge Elementary Schools for receiving well-deserved re-designations as Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "Achieving this prestigious honor is a reflection of the sustained excellence demonstrated day-in and day-out at both MBES and HSES."

NOHS student achieves perfect SAT score



Congratulations to Embyr Williams for earning a perfect 1600 on the SAT!



Congratulations to North Oconee High School senior Embyr Williams for earning a 1600 on the SAT! Embyr is an excellent student with varied interests – a few examples being her participation in Science Olympiad as co-captain, art club as president, and achieving her Black Belt in taekwondo. She is the daughter of Robin and Marie Williams and plans to major in computer science post-graduation. Said Principal Philip Brown, “Embyr is brilliant, along with being kind and considerate of others. She is incredibly well-rounded and is an exceptional student at North Oconee.”



Quick Links for Easy Reference

- [Calendars](#)
- [itslearning](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Opening Oconee Guide](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)
- [Transportation](#)

Mask Up, Oconee

with Bethel Baptist's Kevin Daniel



Bethel Baptist's Kevin Daniel reminds us to wear a mask at school, at work, and when running errands to help keep our community safe! #maskupoconee

For more Mask Up, Oconee videos, please [click here](#).

Oconee County Schools

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