

February Laurens County Schools Newsletter 2017

Does Your Light Still Shine?

Presently, I am sitting at the GAEL Winter Conference in Athens listening to several speakers discuss the teacher shortage in Georgia. Of course, the “powers that be” discussed the many reasons that people choose not to enter the education field—or the reason they choose not to stay in the field of education.

When my own daughter decided to pursue a career in education, I had many people ask, “Why didn’t you try to stop her?” and “You aren’t going to let her do that, are you?” I was truly astonished. Why would I want to stop her? She has a heart for children, and she believes that all children can succeed, and I am so excited that she is about to begin her career as a teacher. Yes, a TEACHER.

Of course, in every career field there is good and bad associated with each profession. Teaching is not easy. It is demanding; it is tedious, and it is heart-consuming. However, there is no career that will allow you the opportunity to touch the future more so than that of being a teacher. Teaching is a calling—it is a lifestyle. It is not an 8 hour a day, 5 day a week job, and, of course, if you are doing the job for the pay—you are probably in the wrong place.

Sadly, the speaker just concluded that educators, in general, are likely the reasons that individuals are not pursuing the field. I was horrified at this thought. But, I must admit: I hear a lot of negativity. Sadly, I must not be the only one hearing the negative voices. As we proceed through the remainder of our current school year, give some thought to the voice that you are sharing with your students, your parents, your community, your friends, and even your own children. Are you the kind of teacher you want for your child?

Every step along my educational journey has been a fun one... not an easy one. Like you, I have many stories... some will make you laugh; some will make you cry; and some will raise your ire. But at the end of the day, I know I made a positive difference in the lives of many students, and I am so thankful that God chose me for this most precious profession. Be sure when you share your stories they are the ones that inspire and shed a positive light on our profession, on your profession, on your life’s work. Our students need the best and the brightest that we can find to teach and to lead them. My light still shines, and I hope yours does, too.



Believe!

Juli

ELMS FBLA WINS BIG AT REGION COMPETITION

On January 17th members of ELMS FBLA attended the Region Leadership Conference. During the awards ceremony, the top five region winners in performance and online testing events were announced. ELMS FBLA members received 25 top 5 five awards, which included 7 first place winners. They also were recognized for having the 2nd largest chapter in Region 4 with 66 members. The following are the students who were recognized for placing in the top 5 in the region in their respective competitive events:

Business Computations: Shauna Moore 1st Place, Kensley McLean 3rd place

Business Concepts: Brianne Bracewell 1st Place, Chrissy Falkenberg 2nd Place, Jordan Aldridge 3rd place

Business Spelling: Brianne Bracewell 1st Place, Maya Taylor 3rd place, Kensley McLean 5th Place

Career Exploration: Kristen Hubbard 2nd Place, Ijah Williams 5th Place

Computer and Internet Concepts: Phoebe Hodges 4th Place

Creed Recitation: Lakeevia Sampson 2nd Place

Employability Skills: Kristen Hubbard 3rd Place,

ELMS Swept the Marketing Concepts Competition: 1st Place Cam Melvin, 2nd Place Amiracle Wright, 3rd Place Chrissy Falkenberg, 4th Place Kaniesha Williams and 5th Place Gracie Sterling

MicroSoft Office Concepts: Lilie Jordan 2nd Place, Kellie Konah 4th Place and Phoebe Hodges 5th Place

Parliamentary Procedures: Reyna Lopez 1st Place, Cam Melvin 2nd Place

Personal Financial Concepts: Nadia Lopez 3rd Place, Andrew Johnson 4th Place

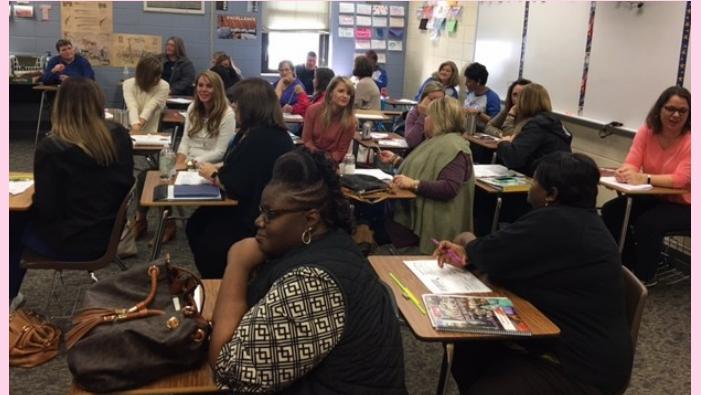
Social Media Concepts – Kaniesha Williams 1st Place

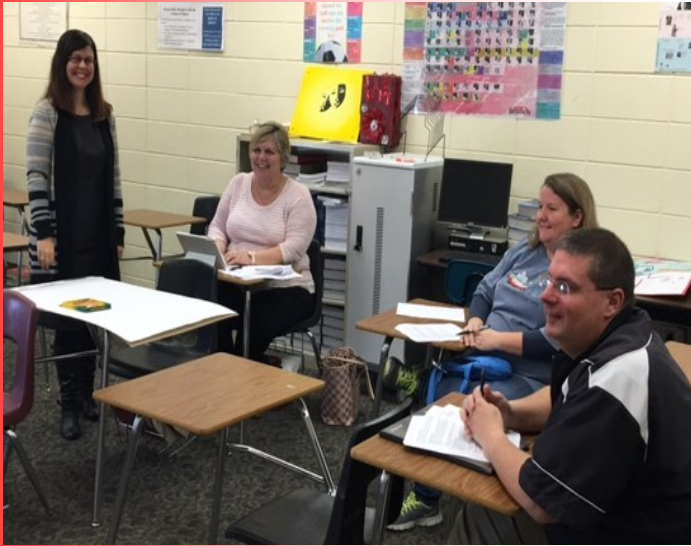




What you teach today may someday light the world.

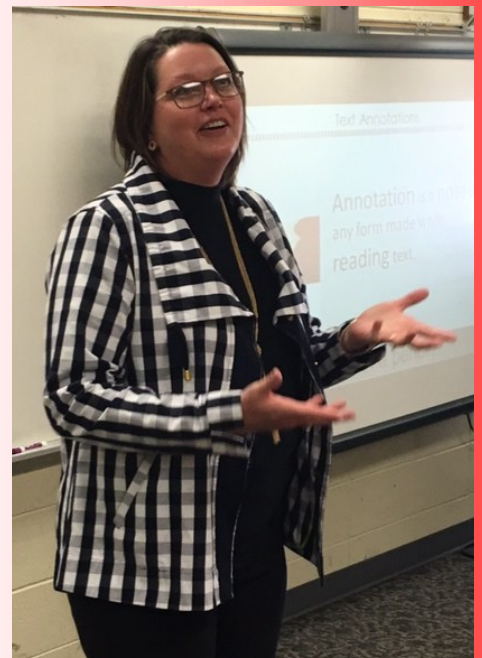
L.W. Fox

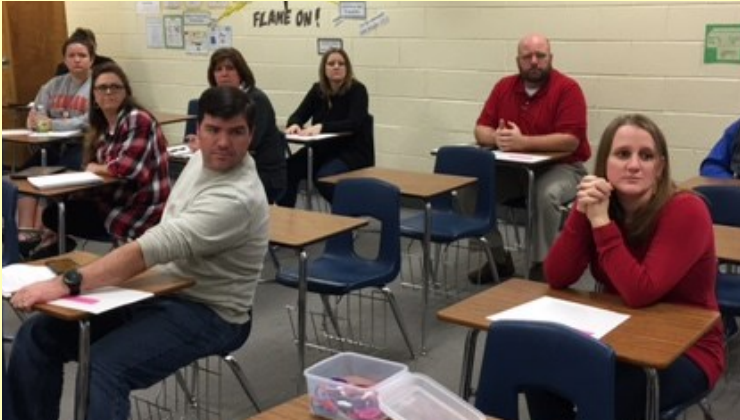
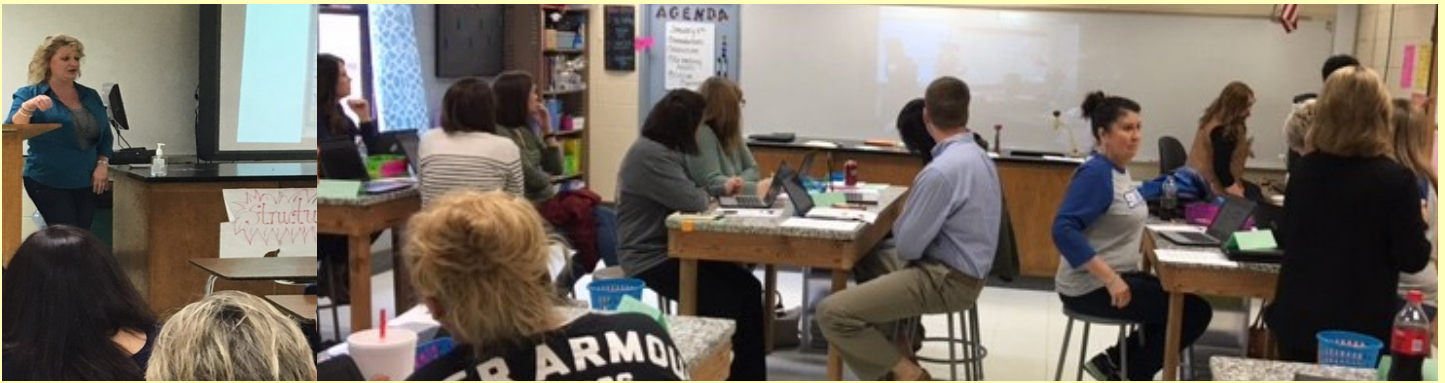




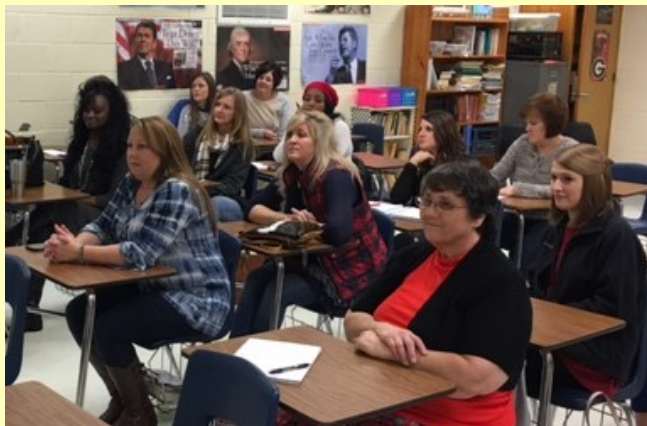
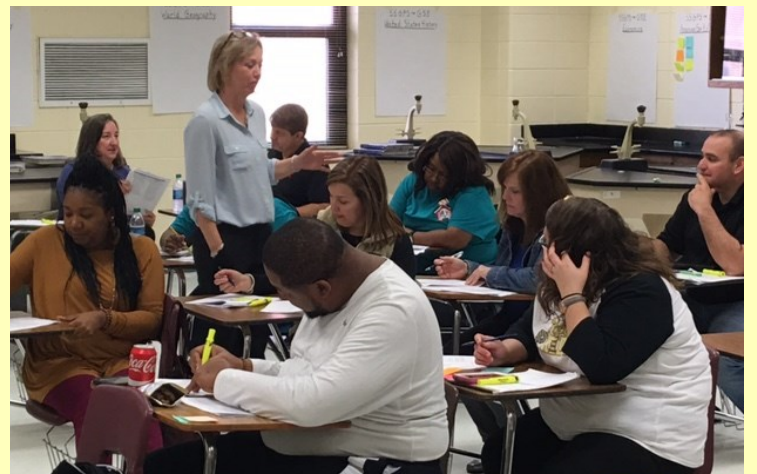
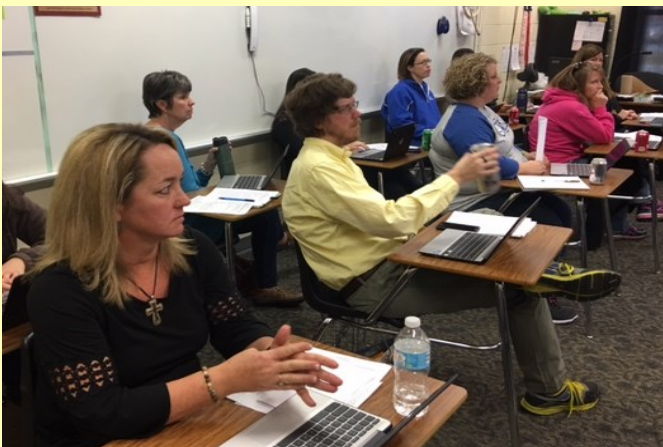
**A good teacher is like
a candle - it consumes
itself to light the way
for others.**

Anonymous





Changing lives one light bulb moment at a time! Rachel Parrot





February is a busy month. Take time to stop and enjoy every moment!





As we celebrated the 100th day of school in the 2016-2017 school year, principals were asked to reflect upon the **“One Hundred Things We Love About Our School.”**

Indeed, there is much to love about our school district! We hope you will take a few minutes to read the comments and graphic representations that were submitted. Further, we hope you will take a moment to pause and reflect upon what you love about your work, your school, and our awesome school district.

100

Things we love
about...

100 Things We ❤️ about LCSS

Para-Professionals
 Technology!
 Lance, Dennis,
 Keith, Michelle,
 Paul, Debbie, Diane

Teaching & Learning
 Dana, Ronda

Teachers

The O.W.L.
 Records
 Student Records
 CRPI
 Records
 Student Records
 Melissa, Debra, Lee, Greg, Jerry, Debbie

Diamond Academy
 Julie, Angie, Leslie, Curt, Central Office Staff



Counselors
 Sunny, HR Contract

We BELIEVE!



Our Students!

Secretaries
 Stellar Instruction

- * ELHS
- * WLHS
- * ELMS
- * WLMS
- * SWLE
- * NWLE
- * ELP
- * ELE

Special Education
 Stacy and Cheryl and Christy and Tammy and Letitia and Jekima and Sabrina and Marquita and summer and Casey

Bus Drivers



PLS
 Seeds, Food Service, Golden Patches, Donna, Mike, Ken, Robert, Rick, Eddie, Bruce, Ricky

Administrators



PLCs
 James, Roy, James, Greg, Joe, McKinley

Social Workers
 CTAE, ESOL, Migrant, Gifted, Dr. Travick, Jameson

IGS
 "Dr. Alligood"
 Our Superintendent
 Kelland

PRE-K
 -TITLE II
 Interns
 Student Teachers
 Hospital
 Homebound
 AK, Holly, Ms. Deal, Cassie

RTI
 Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3
 dana, System

Media
 Specialists

Sports!
 Athletics!
 Go TEAM LAURENS!
 Jeff

Finance Dept.
 Angie, Kim, Vickie, Marice, Cathy, Cathy

Lunchroom Ladies

Volunteers

CUSTODIANS

SROs
ESPLST

every teacher, every student, everyday

Custodians

Sweet Kids ♡

That we are a team!

We are Family!
the teacher/Staff
the children

The way we work together!

We all have a great time
like family ♡

The Staff & Kids Smiles ☺

Family Atmosphere! ☺

I love the Staff
office Staff

Thinking Maps

Great co-workers!



It's an exciting place to work!!

Family ♡

Positive Atmosphere

Family Atmosphere

Family & Kids

Supportive Staff
counselors!

Loving happy and supportive work-family

Can't think of anything I don't like!
The Chicken Noodle Soup
+ love

Principal

I love the faculty & wonderful students!

The Kids!
Supportive Staff
Staff

Chicken noodle soup!

Great administrators!

The Students

The Lunches

WLHS

The family

RAIDER VALLEY BALL

a well-qualified teaching staff

School spirit dress days

Food, staff
Safe environment

Administrative support

Great Leadership
Good Administration
Good-hearted kids

Family atmosphere
Raider Family safe environment
support from our special students.

Best administration support for CTAE

Positive Attitudes

Administrative Support

Student involvement
Long trend of slow steady progress in CCRPI

Parental Support

Parent support

Great Students
Best janitorial Staff!

Supportive Administration + Staff

Good students

Great Staff, School pride

Good disciplinary support

Positive Work Environment

High expectations for students to succeed

Raider Pride

Supportive Administrative Staff

Encouraging Administrator

Great Students!

COLLEGE BOUND

Family atmosphere

One big family that supports each other!

Wonderful staff & students!
Faculty relationships

Family Accountability
Good students

Great Students, Faculty & Admins

School Pride

Clean and safe environment

Respectful students

RAIDER FOOTBALL

Safe school cows

STAFF & STUDENTS

Respectful Environment

last day of the month

School spirit

Administration!

Close bonds to community
Safe school environment

Well-rounded Activities/Curriculum

My students

Tiger Hall

Nice facilities

Administrative Support!!!

ADMINISTRATION!!!

generosity

School atmosphere support from administration

Raider basketball

Great Support & Family!

friendly + collaborative atmosphere among teachers + staff.

#1 CCRPI Score!

RAIDER PRIDE Admin. + Kids

Mr. Garnto!

RIDGEL LABS SUPPORTED



100 (almost)

Things We  About

EL

Middle & High

- ♥ Our students ♥ our staff ♥ our families ♥
- ♥ Our administrators ♥ technology ♥ PLC learning ♥
- ♥ My new Chromebooks ♥ our Facebook page ♥
- ♥ Cooperative colleagues ♥ the small family atmosphere ♥ faithful Falcon fans ♥ our bus drivers ♥
- ♥ Community support ♥ new athletic complex ♥ lunch room staff ♥ focus on improvement ♥ Hook's gas station ♥ we take care of one another ♥
- ♥ teaching ♥ DOK ♥ Cloverleaf fried chicken ♥ black and gold ♥ everyone loves everyone ♥ our custodians ♥ 4 lanes through East Dublin ♥ hot wings day in the lunchroom ♥ Skills USA ♥
- ♥ having a female administrator ♥ our secretaries ♥ basketball games ♥ Friday night football ♥ Officer Yates ♥ Spring break ♥ PROM ♥ Graduation ♥ Homecoming dress up ♥ Well written lesson plans ♥ Free lunch ♥ Coaches ♥ CTAE classes ♥
- ♥ being a middle / high school ♥ pizza from the BP station ♥ Collaborative planning ♥ Falcon Pride ♥ team teaching ♥ sports ♥ New poster maker ♥ TKES ♥ Break time ♥ good assessments ♥ para pros ♥ chocolate ♥ becoming GREAT ♥ 3's and 4's ♥ Club days ♥ Greg Tucker's cooking ♥ Coach Williams Science Fair ♥

 **Everything** 

Our nurse ♥

~~We~~ love working with students with disabilities.

I ♥ All of our Principals, Counselors, and support staff. Best Administration in the county.

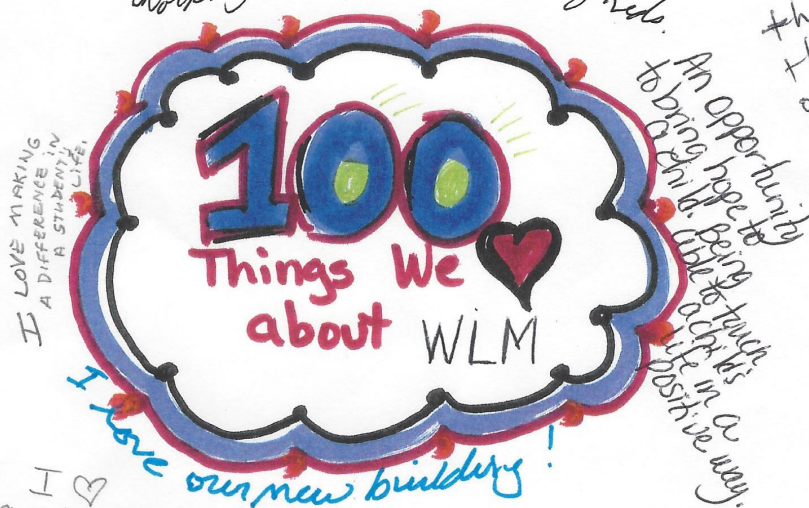
♥ - I love turning "~~more~~ reluctant readers" into readers by introducing them to interesting books on their level.

I always enjoy that moment when you see it "click" for them.

I love the remodeling of the building

Working with and coaching kids.

I really like the spirit of the great teamwork of my peers at WLM



Supportive, helpful, friendly Co-workers.

The Pick which put a smile on my face

I ♥ Candy during PLC!

I enjoy coaching kids.

And helping our students experience success!!

I enjoy the relationships made with students and athletes (life-long).

I enjoy getting to see a child or student finally understand a new concept.

I ♥ the new nurses office!

I like the Custodial office

I Like my boss

thank for have Job at west laurens middle school

By/Kids

The Students/Coworkers

Serving Breakfast to students.

Lunch

When the students say they appreciate the food we serve

Duty-free Lunch of the Student of the Month

Jeans Fridays & Student of the month



co-workers!

Duty-free lunch 3 weeks out of the month! yes!

The lunchroom looks great!

Co-workers!

Jeans on Fridays!

New Grab n Go serving line

Great teacher/janitor relationships

Building Relationship w/ students.

Positivity

Jeans on Fridays & Recognizing Students (Like S.O.T.M.!) 😊

Administration

Thankyou! Foodservice staff

Interacting with the students at the serving line during lunch (please pick up a fruit! or veggie.)

I love how supportive my fellow teachers are & how great our school is.

I love the teachers I teach with & the opportunity to try middle school!

Love Kemp & this year's students!

I love my team of teachers and most of my students!

Duty-free lunch
☺

More Chromebooks!



God is good!
DutyFreeLunch

The people I work with & duty free lunch. The students I teach.

Renovations are great.
The school looks great

Love my team members & all teachers in 8th grade.
Good people ☺

Supportive coworkers
and administration

Bell schedules, and WLM's people! Good folks!

Tim Franks ☺

Supportive Administration and a shared love for what's good for our students. ☺

I love the way our school cares for our students.

I ♥ 7th grade!!!
I ♥ my roommate!!!
I ♥ my team!

I love the students
we have for the
most part / and my
co-workers are good
as well (7th Grade.)

I love the
supportive & positive
approach by administration ...
I love the bond that
the 7th grade teachers have
with students & coworkers!

I Love my Co-Workers!
Great school to work
for. We are so blessed!

I ♥
WLMs!

I love having
lunch with
No Duty!

I ♥ the
administrative
team at WLM
and the respect
their faculty has
for them.



We Love ~~you~~
our new
Science teacher!

I ♥ My Team!!

I ♥ My Collaborative Teachers!

I ♥ Mrs. Raffield

I ♥ 7th Grade!

I love having lunch
w/ other coaches!

I love the
atmosphere I
work in! Easy
to work with everyone! *

I ♥ my principal!
(we will miss you!)

I ♥ Mr. Billy!
(He does a great job
on my room!)

I love our
faculty &
staff!

1. The people
2. The caring atmosphere - We truly lift each other up when one of us is down.
3. Mentor teachers who care enough to stay after school hours to help the first year teachers.
4. The christian music playing in the hallways is many times what I need to hear that moment
5. Closing my door & teaching
6. True friendships among staff. We even hang out on weekends!
7. We are family!
8. Children are learning to read.
9. Our lunchroom ladies are awesome!
10. We pray together!
11. Clean halls & rooms!
12. Our school family!!
13. Our compassion to help those in need.
14. We have cool kids who are kind to each other.
15. We have students who love to learn.
16. Reading groups are challenging + fun.
17. Math groups are rigorous!
18. Math groups use manipulatives to enhance learning standards!
19. Vocabulary is built through conversations with students.
20. We have budding writers!
21. Yummy lunches!
22. Smiling children!
23. Giving and receiving daily hugs!
24. Recess!
25. Rotation!
26. Learning through song/music!
27. Cookies for sale.
28. Ice Cream available for sale.
29. Awesome janitors.
30. The kids love the games at recess.
31. Strong bonds among grade levels.
32. Chromebooks!
33. Police presence in hallways.
34. Access to computer
35. Awesome labs.
PTO Shows (Mrs. Faulk)
36. Playgrounds
37. Loving After school teachers
38. Awesome Nurse
39. Great technology
40. PTO committee does a lot for us!
41. Power Club
42. Hands-on learning
43. Great yearbooks
44. Open communication w/ parents committee
45. Safety works hard to protect us.
46. Awesome library
47. Staff awesome secretaries
48. Bus drivers
49. SWL cheerleaders
50. Jean Day



51. Great the committee
52. poster maker
53. die cuts (variety)
54. aspire team
55. snack machine
56. Candy @ PLC
57. cookies @ staff meetings
58. live streaming from library
59. iRead
60. BrainPop dr.
61. Studies Weekly
62. Great Volunteers (library)
63. Cricut machine
64. clean building
65. team work among grade levels
66. relationships w/ student
67. pledging the flag
68. implementing national anthem
69. Guided Reading
70. SLDS resources

100 Reasons Why We NWLE

Breakfast Respect Track Team Teachers Book Fair Recess Librarian books
First Grade Popsicles Clickers PE. Responsibility Kindergarten
Friends PLCs Beta Club Positive Words ESOL Jeans Dr. Duke Math
Document Cameras Read Theory Trust Mimio "Jack & Jilly" Band
Art Honesty Bookery School Council Bus Drivers Moby Max Printers
Mr. Locke Janitors Pickers Kindness RTA Hugs Secretaries Dedication
Drama Club GRANDPARENTS' DAY PTO Parents Morning News REN PLACE 4H POLAR EXPEDITION DAY
Counselor's Smiles Speech Teachers Copy Machines Third Grade High Fives
Second Grade iREAD Reading Clubs Worker's Union Student Council Grade
Loyalty Chorus iPads Lunchroom ICE CREAM Fourth Grade BrainPop DESKS
Veterans Day Program Basketball Lunchroom LOVE Math Book Character Parade Gratefulness Reading
Computers Pre K STUDENTS Cheerleaders Chromebooks Manipulatives Computer School nurse
I.T. Guy MUSIC Milk Para Professionals Fifth Grade Projectors Coffee
COOPERATION Science Pride Patrol ELA



Certificated Staff (Teachers, Counselors, Media Specialists, etc.) and Para Professionals,

We are currently accepting [TRANSFER applications](#) from current LCSS employees for the 2017-18 school year.

Any current certificated employee of the Laurens County Board of Education **who wishes to be considered for a transfer to another campus for the FY18** school year must submit his or her request to do so by completing two important steps on or before **February 24, 2017**.

First, employees must create an account in SEARCH SOFT (the link is on the LCSS website homepage) and complete a **TRANSFER APPLICATION**.

Secondly, anyone who seeks a transfer within district for FY18, or anticipates wanting a transfer within Laurens County should a position become available, must submit a letter with an original signature to the potential receiving principal and the letter must be copied (cc) to the current principal and the Director of HR.

As an example if you currently teach first grade at NWLE but wish to be considered if an opening in Kindergarten or First or Second Grade were to come open at ELE, you would need to create a transfer application in SEARCHSOFT **AND** you would need to write Dr. Moorman a letter stating your desire to transfer should there be an opening and you would need to send Dr. Duke and Dr. Greer a copy of the letter (email or interoffice mail is fine).

If you need more clarity or assistance with this process, please contact Janet Greer at janetgreer@lcboe.net or Sunny Franks at sunnyfranks@lcboe.net. We will be glad to assist you!

Thank you for your service to our school district.

PBIS in Laurens County

The Department of Education states, “Proactively teaching behavioral expectations and acknowledging students for following them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding.” Laurens County is embracing this concept as we prepare to launch Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) during the 2017-2018 school year.

Currently, PBIS teams have been established at each school. These teams have received DOE training two full days thus far. These teams are meeting monthly to review discipline data and current discipline policies and procedures in anticipation of the full PBIS implementation next school year. Furthermore, they are using this data to identify students who need additional intervention in the areas of social and emotional skills.

According to the DOE, the installation of PBIS has a great impact on a school’s overall climate rating. Of the schools implementing, data indicates the following:

- PBIS schools earning 1 star = 6 schools (2%)**
- PBIS schools earning 2 stars = 8 schools (2.8%)**
- PBIS schools earning 3 stars = 31 schools (11%)**
- PBIS schools earning 4 stars = 113 schools (40%)**
- PBIS schools earning 5 stars = 126 schools (44%)**



PBIS is not a “phase.” The state of Georgia is steadily increasing the number of schools that are being trained to implement this framework with fidelity. Currently, 50% of GA districts, representing 900 + schools, are on board with improving the climate of their schools through the use of PBIS. Keep in mind as we launch PBIS that it is not a quick fix. This is a 3-5 year process that requires support of ALL school personnel. If you have questions, ask your administrator who represents your school as the PBIS Coach. I can hardly wait to see the positive impact this implementation will have on the students and staff of Laurens County.

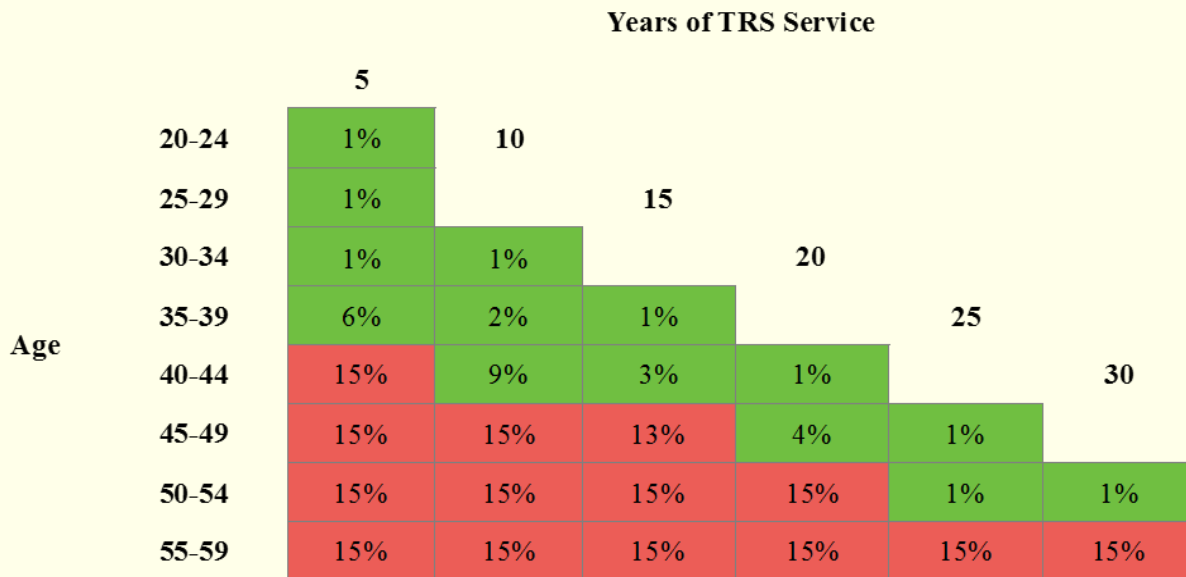


Thinking about retirement...

A 403(b) plan lets you set aside a portion of your salary in an employer-sponsored account to save for retirement.

You don't pay taxes on your contributions to the plan, or on any earnings the account accumulates until you withdraw the money – which ideally happens when you're retired. And by then you may be in a lower tax bracket – so there are potential savings every step of the way.

Participants at Laurens County Schools have the benefit of TRS and Social Security. The chart below shows approximately what you need to save in addition to TRS and Social Security to achieve full income replacement at retirement.



For more information from Lincoln Financial Group - hold the control button and click the following link:

<https://mconnect.iscorp.com/lfg/docService.action?docType=EKIndex&format=HTML&planID=LCS-001>

<https://mconnect.iscorp.com/lfg/docService.action?docType=EKIndex&format=HTML&planID=LCS-002>

The Board approved the FY18 school calendar as follows:

Laurens County School District 2017-2018 School Calendar

July 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

July 3, 4, 5, 2017	Central Office Closed
August 2-7, 2017	Teachers Pre-Planning Days
August 8, 2017	First Day for Students
September 4, 2017	Labor Day Holiday
October 9, 2017	Columbus Day Holiday
October 10, 2017	Teacher In-Service
November 20-24, 2017	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 18-29, 2017	Christmas Holidays
January 1, 2018	New Year Holiday
January 2, 2018	Teacher In-Service
January 15, 2018	MLK, Jr. Holiday
February 19, 2018	President's Day Holiday
March 12, 2018	Teacher In-Service
April 2-6, 2018	Spring Break Holidays
May 24, 2018	Last Day for Students
May 25, 2018	Teachers Post Planning Day
May 28, 2018	Memorial Holiday - Staff
May 29, 30, 2018	Teachers Post Planning Days
May 25, 2018	ELHS Graduation
May 26, 2018	WLHS Grauation

September 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

December 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

January 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

March 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

April 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

May 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

June 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

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Dr. Juli Alligood, Superintendent
Dr. Jameson Travick, Associate Superintendent
Ms. Holly Deal, Associate Superintendent

First Day for Students
Pre & Post Planning Days
Staff & Student Holidays
Staff Holiday
Teacher In-Service Days
Last Day for Students