Online Assessment System Procedures

The Online Assessment System (http://www.georgiaoas.org) is a website designed by the Georgia Department of Education for students in grades 1-12. Though students simply see the website as a way to practice for the CRCT or EOCT test, teachers should view this website as a tool for targeted teaching. Generating reports like the item analysis or the skill gap analysis will enable teachers to pinpoint specific class and individual weaknesses. Consequent instruction should include group instruction that considers different learning styles and modalities. Because these tests are available on the web, they may be taken at home, in the classroom, or the school computer lab.

The following are best practice guidelines for teachers who plan to take students to a school computer lab to administer an OAS test.

### Practice taking tests
**The purpose of the OAS is to use data to drive INSTRUCTION.**

A Teacher should not use the OAS to...

- Replace authentic instruction! Teachers should always follow his/her pacing guides to teach the required standards. Use this system as a tool to target weak skills...
- Fill up the grade book with OAS scores. Give participation grades. Use the reports as a diagnostic tool.

### During the test, the teacher should...

- Practice taking tests! The purpose of the OAS is to use data to drive INSTRUCTION.
- Talk to specific students during the test who seem to be struggling. Take time to do 1:1 teaching.
- Require a student to take the same test over and over until a desired score is achieved.

- Stop the entire class during the test to look at a specific problem. Complete a mini-lesson (not applicable for a benchmark test).
- Replace authentic instruction! Teachers should always follow his/her pacing guides to teach the required standards. Use this system as a tool to target weak skills...
- Fill up the grade book with OAS scores. Give participation grades. Use the reports as a diagnostic tool.

### Teachers to stay in the lab

- Take time to go through their report before they leave the lab.
- Stay in the computer lab through the duration of the test. After the test, the instructor should go back to his/her room and pull the following reports:
  - Class Item Analysis
  - Skill Gap Analysis by Student
- Save the reports to your computer before printing them.

### Teachers to go home...

- Require a student to take the same test over and over until a desired score is achieved.
- To really improve scores, a teacher must read student performance reports and then TEACH the skill in a meaningful and authentic way.

Teachers who used the OAS in late October and November may have experienced technical difficulties with the website. Screen freezing and error messages were frequent complaints. However, the Colquitt County Technology Department has addressed these issues by installing a “tunnel” in our web filter. This allows for the information from the OAS to come and to go through our system without delay. Teachers using the system now report fewer errors and better results. However, this is a free system shared by all Georgia educators. It will have periods of high traffic and possible difficulties. Report excessive and repeated errors to Emily Nichols, Director of Information Technology at enichols@colquitt.k12.ga.us.
W. J. Williams Middle School

The Willie J. Williams Middle School dedication was held on January 21, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. School officials pictured include: Debra Hampton-board member, Doug Howell-principal, Trudie Hill-board chairman, Roy Reeves-board member, and Jimmy Taylor-board member. Special honorees pictured are: Buford Hicks-former principal, Scott Michie-former principal, Louvenia Williams-wife of the late Willie J. Williams, Sr., flanked by her sons Brooks, W.J., and Gerard.

Charlie A. Gray Middle School

The Charlie A. Gray Middle School dedication was held on January 21, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. School officials pictured are Jerry Meister-board member, former principal Nathan Brown, Dr. Todd Cason-principal, Jimmy Taylor-board member, Debra Hampton-board member, and Trudie Hill-board chairman.

On January 2, 2007, Gerald Burke succeeded Constance Johnson as Federal Programs Director for the Colquitt County Schools. He began his career in Thomasville, Georgia as a social science teacher and football & basketball coach. He brings to this position 14 years of teaching and 15 years of administrative experience. Mr. Burke earned his Bachelors degree in Sociology from Albany State University, a Masters in Education from Georgia State University, and his Specialist degree in Leadership from Troy State University.

Mr. Burke shared, “Students and their success are the focus of what we do in the Colquitt County Schools. Even though this position does not put me in direct interaction with children, I feel that I am still serving the needs of children by equipping their leaders with the resources to facilitate achievement.”

He is married to Bernice Burke. They have two children, Dewanna Burke (28) and Devin Burke-Sanders (24). He is also the proud grandfather of Kameron Sanders (four months).

Federal Programs Under New Leadership

On January 2, 2007, Gerald Burke succeeded Constance Johnson as Federal Programs Director for the Colquitt County Schools. He began his career in Thomasville, Georgia as a social science teacher and football & basketball coach. He brings to this position 14 years of teaching and 15 years of administrative experience. Mr. Burke earned his Bachelors degree in Sociology from Albany State University, a Masters in Education from Georgia State University, and his Specialist degree in Leadership from Troy State University.

Mr. Burke shared, “Students and their success are the focus of what we do in the Colquitt County Schools. Even though this position does not put me in direct interaction with children, I feel that I am still serving the needs of children by equipping their leaders with the resources to facilitate achievement.”

He is married to Bernice Burke. They have two children, Dewanna Burke (28) and Devin Burke-Sanders (24). He is also the proud grandfather of Kameron Sanders (four months).

Problem Solving Skills: Guess and Check

“Seven eighths of the number, added to 72, doubles the number,” read Soren. “Is this a joke?” Larry looked at the paper and said, “No, it’s the number of my locker.” What is the number to Larry’s locker?
Teaching Virtual School

Interested in teaching classes in your pajamas at home or while you vacation on the beach? With Georgia Virtual School, you can teach courses from any Internet-connected computer at any place. Georgia Virtual School is always looking for highly qualified, GA certified teachers, but is specifically looking for adjunct teachers for the following courses:

**World Languages**
- Latin
- Japanese
- Chinese
- German
- French

**Math**
- AP Statistics
- Discrete Math
- Statistics

**Science**
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics
- Oceanography

**Electives**
- AP Music Theory
- AP Art History
- Health
- P.E.

**Business/IT**
- AP Computer Science
- Broadcast Video

**Language Arts**
- AP Literature
- AP Language

If you are interested in being considered for a teaching position, please apply at http://www.GAVirtualSchool.org.

Help Is Only A Phone Call Away

The Colquitt County Board of Education, in conjunction with Archbold Employee Assistance offers to Colquitt County School System employees and their families free confidential counseling services in a variety of areas.

- Individual, Marital/Family Issues
- Grief
- Abuse Issues
- Career Planning
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Legal Assistance
- Financial Problems
- Psychiatric Assessments

For more information contact Archbold Employee Assistance Program toll-free:

1-877-327-2724

Free & Confidential Assistance

Need Professional Learning Units?

Check out the Colquitt County Technology Course Catalog. Seven new courses have been added. Face-to-face and online courses are available.

www.colquitt.k12.ga.us/depts/technology

Employees in the Spotlight

Colquitt County School Nutrition recently completed a very successful State Review process conducted by a State Dept. Review Team. The three schools participating in the review were Stringfellow, Willie J. Williams, and Funston. All findings were satisfactory and all Federal and State guidelines accomplished. Congratulations to these three schools for a job well done. They represent the overall quality of the Colquitt Co. School Nutrition Program.

Sandra Evans, Okapilco paraprofessional graduated in December from ABAC with her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. She has worked at Okapilco for 8 years and has plans to continue her education.

Okapilco Media Specialist Scott Boyd recently graduated from Albany State University with a Specialist Degree in Education Leadership.

Look What’s Cooking

The Colquitt County School Nutrition Program recently held the local Culinary Contest sponsored by the Colquitt County School Nutrition Association. 17 entries were prepared by School Nutrition Employees throughout the 13 area schools for the competition. Categories included: whole wheat rolls, oatmeal cookies, and rice dishes. Judges for the event were Paula Bass, Fritzie Sheumaker, Yolanda Carr, and Gerald Burke. After sampling and judging the many tasty entries, the following were selected as the 1st place winners in each category:

Sandra Bass, CCHS --1st place oatmeal cookies (left)
Marlene McIntyre, WJW--1st Place whole wheat rolls (center)
Susan Rogers, WJW--1st place rice casserole (right)

These three winners will now advance to district competition scheduled at Worth Co. High School on Feb. 10th to compete against area counties for the opportunity to advance to State Competition. The winners of the district competition will then advance to State Competition scheduled this year at the Cordon Bleu Culinary School in Atlanta.

“This event offers the school nutrition employees the opportunity to show off their cooking skills--something that most look forward to each year. I am excited about our possibilities at the District and State levels and look forward to accompanying our district winners to the Cordon Bleu in Atlanta. As always, I am proud to be part of the Colquitt County School Nutrition Program.” ~ Monika W. Griner, School Nutrition Director.
WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MRS. ADAMS?

By Joy Webb

The array of training, resources, and personal talents of our Colquitt County teachers is quite amazing. The question, ‘Where in the World is Mrs. Adams?’ is not a gimmick, but is asked everyday in one CCHS class.

Julie Adams teaches five periods of 11th grade US History. Her classes range from Vocational and College Prep to Advanced. She has to incorporate differentiated teaching strategies. To support her efforts, Mrs. Adams was selected to participate in what began as the South Georgia History Project but is now called Wiregrass History. The project is sponsored by Coastal Plains RESA and Valdosta State University. It is funded by a federal grant with the sole purpose of providing additional materials, resources, and training for South Georgia History teachers. Mrs. Adams received a laptop, books, resources, and membership in the Organization of American Historians. She attends seminars and workshops and is provided travel to national conferences and special summer trips to significant historical sites like the USS Constitution. This year she will travel to Williamsburg and Philadelphia. She shares this experience through scrapbooks, maps, technology and other means to make history real for her students. The payoff comes when one of her students connects and says, ‘Hey, Mrs. Adams, isn’t that a famous place you’ve been?’

Mrs. Adams is well suited to teach US History. She tells her students, ‘I am a Yankee, a Rebel, and a Southern Bell.’ Born in Effingham, Illinois, her family moved with her father’s job to Ohio, Wisconsin, Atlanta, and finally Valdosta, Georgia. While in Valdosta, Julie attended Valdosta High School and was a cheerleader for the Valdosta Wildcats! Ironically, she later served as our head cheerleading coach and shares what a strange experience it was for her the first time we played Valdosta and she was on the Colquitt County sidelines.

After graduating from Valdosta High School, Mrs. Adams began working as a salesclerk for a scuba diving company in Valdosta. One night while out roller skating with some of her colleagues, she met Mr. Keith Adams. As they held hands and roller skated under the crystal ball, a budding romance began. They married in 1981 and later had two children. Lauren, the oldest, is married and the mother of their first, perfect, three month old grandchild, Nicholas. Their youngest son, Brian, is a freshman at Valdosta State University and plans to major in aeronautical engineering.

Mrs. Adams shares these thoughts, “I love this job. Sometimes I can’t believe I get paid to spend my day with teenagers. This age group is so honest…I try to keep an atmosphere that is open and they are comfortable. This is our future. Some will be really good at being leaders and being responsible. I think in the long run, they will step up and do what they’re supposed to.” So the answer to the burning question of “Where in the World is Mrs. Adams?” She is the hearts and minds of her students as they travel into the world.