Using the Online Assessment System

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 3rd-8th grade teachers who plan to take students to a school computer lab to administer an OAS test.

**During the test, the teacher should:**
- 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.

**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...
- Require a student to take the same test over and over until a desired score is achieved.

**Fill up the grade book with OAS scores.**
Give participation grades. Use the reports as a diagnostic tool.

**Walk around, observe answer strategies, write classroom follow-up notes.**

**Talk to specific students during the test who seem to be struggling. Take time to do 1:1 teaching. However, 1:1 teaching is not appropriate for a benchmark test because they are intended to allow the teacher to see an ACCURATE picture of student progress.**

**Stop the entire class during the test to look at a specific problem. Complete a mini-lesson (not applicable for a benchmark test).**

The following graphic indicates ways in which the OAS should not be used.

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High school teachers who are interested in this resource need to contact Glen Spurlock at gspurlock@colquitt.k12.ga.us. Classes for 2nd grade through 8th grade were imported into the OAS according to the required standards. Use this system as a tool to target weak skills...

The OAS 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.
February 5, 2008
Let your voice be heard!


The hard work and dedication of Hamilton Elementary custodians Willie Goble and Sandra Lamb have brought them must deserved recognition. Hamilton Elementary has been named as the Colquitt County Schools “Clean School Award” winner for the quarter.

All thirteen schools are inspected quarterly based on stringent criteria by an independent committee. In addition to a “Clean School Award” winner being named, two schools were named as “Most Improved” - Okapilco Elementary and Stringfellow Elementary.

The custodial staff at Okapilco Elementary includes Sherry Barber, Inez Juarez, and Lorenzo Richardson. The Stringfellow Elementary custodial staff includes Michael Richardson, Lyndia Ruffin, and Elgie Slaughter.

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 and 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

Colquitt County Schools
2008 - 2009 Calendar

The calendar for the 2008-2009 school year was presented to and approved by the Colquitt County Board of Education on December 17, 2007.
GATAPP (Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program): A Source of Great Teachers

Teacher shortages are a reality in Georgia and in Colquitt County. Critical shortages are evident in the subject areas of math, science, special education, English, foreign language and even elementary education. There are several contributors to the shortage. Georgia has been touted as the third fastest growing state in the nation which means a growing student population. Furthermore, traditional teacher preparation programs do not meet the need for teachers in Georgia. Only 23.5% of the teachers hired in 2008 completed a college teacher preparation program while the remaining teachers were hired from alternative preparation programs, out of state sources and unemployed teachers returning to work. A third reason for the shortage is the large number of teachers eligible and applying for retirement.

GATAPP is an alternative route to teacher certification that sets high standards and prepares new recruits for the teaching profession. The eligibility requirements for GATAPP candidates are: 1) Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college and at least a 2.5 GPA; 2) Pass/Exempt GACE Basic Skills test; 3) Pass a GACE content assessment or have an academic major in the subject taught; and 4) have a job offer in a Georgia school. GATAPP candidates must then go through a rigorous two year training program that meets all special Georgia requirements defined by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Each GATAPP candidate is assigned a support team of administrators and mentors.

GATAPP was not available in South Georgia until April of 2007. The Southwest Georgia Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) now sponsors a GATAPP program and Colquitt County Schools have nineteen GATAPP teachers. Their names and assignments are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Teaching Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bennett</td>
<td>Justin</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Middle Grades Science/Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bezemak</td>
<td>Lynda</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Middle Grades Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Gregory Ryan</td>
<td>Cox</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardenas</td>
<td>Rodolfo</td>
<td>Gray</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins</td>
<td>Christal</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Middle Grades Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalton</td>
<td>Amy</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Middle Grades Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davenport</td>
<td>Courtney</td>
<td>CCHS</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jessica</td>
<td>CCHS</td>
<td>English 6-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goss</td>
<td>Alvaran</td>
<td>CCHS</td>
<td>Science 6-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Eric</td>
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<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>Patesa</td>
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<td>Gwendolyn</td>
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<tr>
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<td>W. Leamon</td>
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<td>Lindsay</td>
<td>Odom</td>
<td>Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walden</td>
<td>Susan</td>
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<td>Cheryl</td>
<td>Stringfield</td>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Womack</td>
<td>M. Shane</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>Middle Science/Social Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome to Google Lit Trips!

Having a book come to life is getting closer to reality with the use of technology. In the Colquitt County Schools, technology has long been a priority in classroom instruction. Instructional technology specialist Diane Barfield and Okapilco first grade teacher Michelle Wilkes took Mrs. Wilkes' class on a trip around the world without ever leaving the comforts of the classroom.

Mrs. Wilkes’ class, through the use of Google Earth, was able to travel to the places mentioned in the book “The Yellow Balloon.” While the guest reader read the book in English and French, Mrs. Barfield marked the places of interest in Google Earth. Students’ comments were noted and photographs added of the class. Once completed, the class had taken a literary trip using Google Earth.

Mrs. Wilkes’ class was the 1st first grade class to submit a literary trip to the website www.googlelittrips.com. The access to this site is worldwide. Other literary trips are available for download. If you would like to view other literary trips or create one of your own visit the site and click on “Getting Started” to learn more.

For assistance contact Diane Barfield at dbarfield@colquitt.k12.ga.us.

School Counselors: Creating Pathways to Success! National School Counselors Week February 4 - 8, 2008

As Colquitt County Schools strive to ensure that all students achieve at high levels, school counselors have an important responsibility in addressing barriers that may impede student academic success. To highlight the work of school counselors, the week of February 4-8 has been designated by the American School Counselor Association as 2008 National School Counseling Week. This year’s theme, “School Counselors: Creating Pathways to Success,” illustrates the counselors’ dual roles of collaborating with other school staff members to advocate for students’ well-being and academic progress and of helping students plan for life after graduation from high school. Colquitt County’s students are served by the following dedicated group of counselors: Kim Guion, Cox Elementary; Susan Herndon, Funston Elementary; Stacey Ivey and Debra Lightsy, C. A. Gray Middle School; Amy Bennett, Hamilton and Okapilco Elementary Schools; Le Lang, Norman Park Elementary; LeAnn Owens, Odom Elementary; Saudia Malachi, Stringfellow Elementary; Arden Folsom, Sunset Elementary; Sandra Richardson and Nawatha White, W.J. Williams Middle School; Jean Allen, R. B. Wright Elementary, and Keith Hall, Monica Crenshaw, Cathy Nobles, Patricia Thompson, and Joan White, Colquitt County High School. Valuable partners with the school counselors are our graduation coaches: Dede Megahee, Colquitt County High School; Pam Heidelberg, W.J. Williams; and Jim Horne, C.A. Gray. In honor of National School Counseling Week, we send our appreciation to all these staff members for the great job they do, and we thank everyone for supporting the work counselors do to raise student achievement.
One of the hidden benefits of employment with the Colquitt County Schools are the friends we make. Most are professional relationships, folks we see only at work but still call friends. Those we are closest to always give us a straight answer, put us in our place if we need putting there, give us a hug when we are down, and can tell a good joke or story to make us laugh. We know their moods; when to ask permission, when to ask forgiveness, and when to stay out of the way. We share family stories and pictures, and we may know strange tidbits of information about each other.

One of my friends was the first Homecoming Queen at Doerun High School and an FFA Sweetheart. Her three grandchildren are into raccoon hunting, 4-H, cheerleading, and show hogs. She was born, raised and still lives in Sigsbee. Over the years she has been actively involved in the Rose of Sharon Church and continues to sing in the choir. Catering is something she enjoys and used to do for the public but now does only for close friends and family. She has two children, a son Stacy, who is a farmer, and daughter Stephanie, who is Assistant to the Liaison for Agriculture to the Governor. Her husband is John Bolin and they married in 1994.

I consider Alana Bolin my friend (hope she does me). She is the Comptroller for our school system. Her career in finance started with bookkeeping for their family farm and various ag businesses. She began with the Colquitt County School System on April 1, 1979 in a temporary position funded by the school board and Georgia Department of Labor. The job entailed supervising students on job sites. Mrs. Bolin remembers the date because ‘the joke’ is she stayed. The temporary job turned into a permanent position as the Central Office switchboard operator. Within a year, she became the bookkeeper for Food Service where she worked from 1980-89. Mrs. Bolin was promoted to Office Manager for Business Services in 1990. It is a tribute to Mrs. Bolin’s ability, honesty, and work ethic that in January 2000, she was named our Comptroller.

Mrs. Bolin’s skill and ability is recognized not only by us but by her peers. She has been actively involved in the professional organization of Georgia Association of School Business Office (GASBO) since 1992. She served on state committees and in many leadership roles. Through the respect and confidence of her peers, Mrs. Bolin served as state president of GASBO in 2004.

The definition of Comptroller is simple. It means only to control finance. Mrs. Bolin’s job is anything but simple since it involves the management of a $90 million budget. Each of us sees only the tiny pot that affects our daily lives. But the total budget includes capital projects, food service, facilities, transportation, instruction, and of course the salaries of over 1200 employees. Mrs. Bolin has been involved in five bookkeeping conversions to manage our school finances. There were the old days of using a bookkeeping machine. But since the major conversion to a computer system, we have used three computer finance programs, Burroughs, Genesis, and now Munis. Mrs. Bolin supervises a staff of five people that handle the majority of the day to day business operation of our schools. This includes purchasing, billing, requisitions, reports, banking and investments, payroll, and budget.

The Colquitt County Schools System has a history of fiscal soundness and responsibility thanks to the leadership of our school board, school superintendents, and our comptroller, Mrs. Alana Bolin. One of my favorite memories in my early days with pre-kindergarten involved a $50,000.00 check made out to Joy Webb and mailed to me. With delight, I showed the check to Mrs. Bolin. She shook her head, made me sign the check, and I hand it over.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. I am always looking to improve the Colquitt Connections Employee Newsletter.

Welcome to the Team!
Tina Clay  CCHS
Erica D.Player  CCHS
Benita Fran Tillman  Odom
Brandy Williams  Odom

Kathryn Kaely - Sept 20 - daughter of Amy Griner Bennett (Hamilton and Okapico) and Daemon Bennett (Maintenance)
Marlee Kathryn - Dec 10 - daughter of Lydia (Okapico) and Johnathan McDaniel (Gray)

Reduction in Energy Consumption Costs
March 2004 - November 2007

The Colquitt County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies.