



# RESA'S PIECES

Professional Learning

Support Services

TAPP Program

GLRS

Data Analysis

School Improvement

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

[www.mgresa.org](http://www.mgresa.org)

SEPTEMBER 2009

## RESA REMINDERS...

September 8  
TAPP Essentials Class  
4:30-8:30

September 8, 9, 10  
GLRS Re-delivery  
Training, DI Math K-5  
Houston Co. Village in  
Perry

September 15  
Human Resources  
Directors' Meeting  
1-4, Room 103,  
Learning Support Bldg.

September 15  
Last TAPP Essentials  
Class, 4:30-8:30

September 16  
Master Teacher Info  
Session, Core Content  
4-5:30, Rm. 103, LS Bldg

September 16  
Master Tchr Info Session,  
Non-core Content  
4-5:30, Rm 104, LS Bldg

September 16  
Board of Control Mtg.  
9-11:30, Faculty Conf Rm  
Student Life Center

September 22  
TAPP Seminar, 5:30-8  
LS Bldg. Auditorium  
Steve Smith, School  
Law and Ethics

## ***AYP Reports Bring GOOD NEWS!***

The AYP reports of the schools in the Middle Georgia RESA systems show many areas of improvement and causes for celebration. Some of them are highlighted below.

- 1) Every school in **Monroe County** made AYP. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that all schools and the system have made AYP.
- 2) Every school in **Houston County** made AYP.
- 3) **Crawford County Middle School** made AYP and came off of the Needs Improvement list. Its SWD subpopulation improved its Reading/ELA scores by 36% points.
- 4) **Rutland Middle School** (Bibb) made AYP and came off of the Needs Improvement list.
- 5) **Jeffersonville Elementary School** (Twiggs) made AYP and improved its math scores by 15% points.
- 6) **Twiggs County High School** made AYP and closed the science gap to within 5 percentage points of the state average.
- 7) **Morgan Elementary School** (Bibb) made AYP and increased its math scores by 16%.
- 8) **Northside High School** (Houston) made AYP this year and math scores for economically disadvantaged students improved 11%. SWD increased their ELA scores by 18% with a meets or exceeds percentage of 92%.
- 9) **Gray Elementary School (Jones)** had an increase in every subpopulation in mathematics with black students showing the greatest increase of 18%. The black subpopulation also had 0 students absent over 15 days. All subpopulation percentages in this second indicator are in single digits.
- 10) SWD at **Clifton Ridge Middle School** (Jones) improved their math scores by 17%. All subpopulations showed an increase in mathematics.
- 11) **Fort Valley Middle School** (Peach) had a decrease of 11% in the white subpopulation of percent of students absent over 15 days (second indicator).
- 12) **Bernd Elementary School** (Bibb) increased math scores by 14%.

**RESA  
REMINDERS...**

September 22  
Systems Curriculum  
Mtg., 8-11:30, Room 256  
Student Life Center

September 22  
Special Education  
Director's Meeting  
1-3

September 22  
SPED Math Content  
Academy, Numeracy,  
4:30-8:30

September 23 and 24  
Singapore Math Model  
Drawing for Teachers  
Central GA Tech, Macon  
Grades K-2: 8:30-4:30  
I Building, Quad A/C  
Grades 6-8: 8:30-4:30  
I Building, Quad B/D

September 28  
Leadership Seminar  
4-8:30, Auditorium  
Learning Support Bldg  
Legal Issues Update  
Harbin, Hartley, &  
Hawkins Law Firm

GACE Test Prep – Math  
October 1, 7, 14 (Gr 4-8)  
October 1, 6, 15(G 6-12)

October 8  
TAPP Seminar, 5-8  
LS Bldg., Auditorium  
Portfolio & AYP Reports  
Pam Wacter, Judy Moore

October 12 – Holiday

October 13  
SPED Math Content  
Academy, Algebra,  
4:30-8:30 Faculty Conf Rm

**RESA has moved to the Other Side of Campus**

The offices of Middle Georgia RESA have moved to the other side of the Macon State College campus. The Education Building where MGRESA was located is one of three being torn down to make way for a state-of-the-art building which will overlook the lake and house three buildings of people.

The RESA offices are now located in the Learning Support Building on the first floor, room 126. This building houses the auditorium and is next to the newly built Jones Building. Plans are for RESA to be there for approximately two years.



A bulldozer is about to begin the demolition of the Education Building, the former home of the RESA offices.

**New Staff Members Added to the RESA Family**

Middle Georgia RESA is proud to announce the addition of six new individuals to the staff. Leanne Carreker is the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director and a Finance Specialist. She replaced Connie Walton who retired last year. Teressa Schultz is the new Finance Director and replaced Sharon Jones who retired in May. Patricia Johnson is the Hearing Impaired Teacher, and Susan McMillan is the new Orthopedically Impaired Teacher. Two new individuals were brought in to help with school improvement. Karen Crider will be serving as a School Improvement Specialist, and Jenny Orr will be a School Improvement Science Specialist. The RESA family is fortunate to have individuals with years of experience and expertise in the positions they have been hired to fill.

**RESA  
REMINDERS...**

October 14  
Board of Control Mtg.  
9-11:30, Faculty Conf Rm

October 14  
Project ExpreSS-  
Science and Social Stud  
(By invitation only)  
Arts Complex Theatre  
Rehearsal Hall 8:30-3:30  
Susan Ouzts

October 17 - GACE

October 20  
Human Resources  
Directors Meeting  
1-4, Room 131  
Learning Support Bldg.

October 22  
TAPP Seminar, 5:30-8  
LS Bldg. Auditorium  
Diversity, Beth Allgood

October 26  
Leadership Seminar  
4-8:30, Auditorium  
Learning Support Bldg  
An Evening with PSC  
Kelly Henson, Rick  
Eiserman, David Hill

October 27 and 28  
Singapore Math Model  
Drawing for Teachers  
Grades 3-5: 8:30-4:30  
Central GA Tech, Macon  
I Building, Quad A/C

October 27  
SPED Math Content  
Academy, Geometry,  
4:30-8:30

November 3  
1<sup>st</sup> TAPP Benchmark

**If it's Reading, it must be Ina**

This summer, two reading courses were taught to teachers throughout the Middle Georgia area: **Assisting Struggling Readers** and **Teaching Reading and Writing**. Participants learned literacy strategies to help their struggling students and to engage all children when faced with difficult material.

Twiggs County Middle and High school faculty members were involved in a new reading class offered by Middle Georgia RESA. **Effective Vocabulary Instruction** is a one PLU course that provides teachers many strategies to help their students master essential vocabulary and subject area concepts. This course was taught in two five-hour sessions.

The current TAPP class was presented with the **Rigor and Relevance** workshop. Being a part of the Standards Based classroom, this three-hour course combined higher order questioning using Bloom's Taxonomy with the Application Model to produce different levels of application of knowledge. Participants were provided with a flip book based on the different levels of Bloom's Revised Taxonomy which can be used for lesson planning.

All classes above were taught by Ina Chanin, Middle Georgia RESA Reading Specialist.

**Leadership Seminars Keep Administrators Up-to-Date**

On September 28, members of the law firm, Harbin, Hartley & Hawkins, will inform administrators and other potential leaders of the latest updates in legal issues involving education. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to ask questions.

An Evening with PSC will be the focus of the **Leadership Seminar on October 26**. Kelly Henson, Rick Eiserman, and David Hill from the Professional Standards Commission will share updates of issues pertaining to the PSC.

All Leadership Seminars have a \$15.00 registration fee for each attendee. A working supper is provided for the 4:00 to 8:30 sessions. For more information, go to [www.mgresa.org](http://www.mgresa.org) under the Online Registration tab. PLUs may be earned.

**New Course for Recertification or for Revisiting Concepts**

A new course has been developed for teachers who need five hours for recertification or for those who would like to revisit strategies for classroom management or have a clearer understanding standards-based instruction. The course will be taught by National Board Certified Teacher Susan Ouzts who teaches the class required of all TAPP teachers called *Essentials for Effective Teaching*. The course is called *Classroom Practices that Work: Classroom Management and Standards-based Instruction* and begins on October 3, 2009. For more information about the class go to [www.mgresa.org](http://www.mgresa.org) and click on the tab labeled "Online Registration."

**MGRESA STAFF**

**Carolyn H. Williams**  
*Executive Director*

**Linda Curry**  
*GLRS Director*

**Cecil Borum**  
*Records Technician/  
Inventory Clerk*

**Leanne Carreker**  
*Admin. Asst. to Exec. Dir./  
Financial Specialist*

**Kelly Derzi**  
*School Improvement  
Math Specialist*

**Debbie Mathis**  
*Professional Learning  
Secretary/Receptionist*

**Jackie McCann**  
*Technology/School Impr.  
Data Analysis Specialist*

**Judy Moore**  
*TAPP Coordinator/  
GLRS School Improvement  
Math Specialist*

**Susan Ouzts**  
*TAPP Essentials Instructor/  
School Improvement  
Social Studies Specialist*

**Teressa Schultz**  
*Finance Director*

**Melissa Smith**  
*TAPP Administrative  
Assistant*

**Sarah West**  
*Professional Learning/  
School Improvement  
Specialist*

**Michele Wilson**  
*GLRS Resource Room  
Secretary/Receptionist*



**Nineteen are TAPPED to be Ambassadors**

Nineteen former TAPP teachers were named as 2009-2010 TAPP Ambassadors. The teachers represent the entire state of Georgia and were chosen by their TAPP providers for the position. Training for all ambassadors was held in June in Macon, Georgia. Steve Barkley and David Hill conducted sessions for the ambassadors on how to best represent the TAPP program and how to respond to questions and concerns that people might have about it.

Also in attendance were two of last year's ambassadors, Andre Mountain and Steve Smith. Andre was working in downtown New York City on the day of 9/11. That event caused him to rethink his career choice and follow his dream of being a teacher. Steve took an 80% pay reduction from his former position to enter the field of education. TAPP afforded them that opportunity. Steve was recently named superintendent of Wilcox County Schools making him the first TAPP teacher in Georgia to be named a superintendent.

David Gibbs and Alicia Jackson are the TAPP Ambassadors from the Middle Georgia RESA TAPP program. Both were chosen based on their accomplishments in the classroom and praise from their administrators. Dave is a math teacher at Houston County High School and Alicia is a special education teacher at the Georgia Academy for the Blind.



**Dave Gibbs**  
Houston County  
High School



**Alicia Jackson**  
Georgia Academy  
for the Blind



## ***Math Content Academy for Special Education Teachers***



Donna Zeuner-Burkhardt (Houston Co.) and Amber Haslett (Houston Co.) are measuring "noodles" to lengths of yards, feet, and inches for measuring.

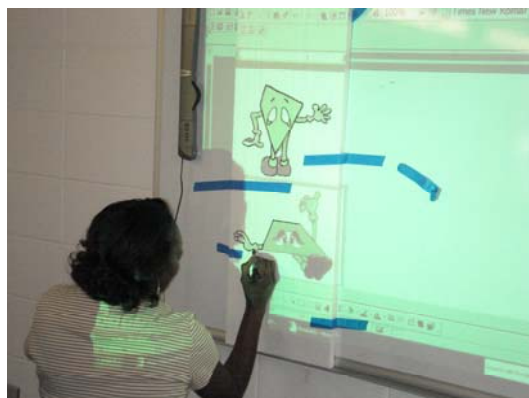


Phyllis Zellner of Elam Alexander cuts her multicolored "noodles" into fractional parts.

For two weeks in June, special education teachers of grades K-5 attended a math content seminar. Teachers from six of the seven MG RESA systems and the Georgia Academy for the Blind learned math content, made and learned how to use manipulatives during class instructional time, and discussed every standard in grades K-5. Vocabulary was emphasized and perused during the two weeks. The teachers will meet three more times in the fall to discuss how they used teaching strategies learned and to complete the course. Plans are underway to possibly have both an elementary and a middle school academy next summer.



Dawn Day of the Georgia Academy for the Blind makes quadrilateral manipulatives by outlining shapes with puff paint for her visually impaired students.



Heroline Hatcher uses the concept of similar polygons to draw quadrilateral manipulatives for her SWD students in Crawford County.



Shondonette Horton, a teacher at Elam Alexander, uses a marker to "blacken" out numbers and all forms of numbers from a page of a newspaper.