

The Learning Curve

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Your weekly guide to students, schools, teachers and triumphs in Bibb County's Public Schools

Getting To Know

Dr. Kaye Hlavaty
Principal
Heritage Elementary



Job Description: Principal of the largest elementary school in the county with a student population of 880.

Hometown: Warner Robins
Schools attended: Georgia College and University of Georgia

Degrees: B. S and Master's in Early Childhood; Specialists and Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Professional Affiliations: Professional Association of Georgia Educators; Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals

Years in education: 27
Years in Bibb County Public Schools: 21

Years in current position: 4
Favorite Teacher growing up and why: It's hard to say because so many teachers influenced my life in so many ways it can't be narrowed down to just one.

Personal educational philosophy: Teachers must make learning interesting and applicable so that students are involved in and value what is being taught.

Professional Goals: To teach college level education students after I retire.

Why education? My mother thought that teaching was a good job for a wife and mother to have; little did she know I would follow both of my grandfathers' footsteps and become a principal!

Favorite story from the classroom: After 27 years there are many favorites! My very favorite is the time a student went to the dump to find me the perfect Christmas present because he couldn't afford to buy one. His genuine enthusiasm and pride when he presented me with his gift will never be forgotten!

Parting words: Students continue to touch me with their love and their many ways of expressing it.

ESOL Open House highlights services and programs available to families not fluent in English

"We are proud of your students, and we'd like to be a partner in their education," Central High ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) teacher Rebecca Reeves told a packed room of parents and their children. Pausing, she waited for what she said to be translated into Spanish for a good portion of the room by the woman standing next to her as well as into Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese, Hindi, Bulgarian, and Korean at individual tables.

Taking up all the seats, as well as standing against many of the walls, are parents who've come to the Career Center Annex to find out just what is offered by the community – through the school system and local partners – to help their children succeed in school.

Several years ago, Porter Elementary ESOL teacher held a Mother's Day event, and it was such a success, she helped organize a similar event at Rutland Middle. Also, each ESOL teacher would have individual booths set up at each school's Open House.

According to Reeves, "we wanted to do something more to open it up to even more people." So they put together a county-wide Open House, featuring all of the languages and all the services these children could access. Invitations were sent home with the students, and more than 80 people showed up that night. Each teacher introduced themselves, which schools they served, and what languages they can help with. "We are so excited there are so many of us here."

"I told them if they got 10 people here, it would be a success," says Former ESOL Director Roslyn Pratt (she retired at the end of last school year), who was instrumental in the growth of the ESOL program. "What's also great is to see all the different nationalities represented."

Also available this evening was a chance for families to see what services were available outside of the school setting. Located right next to the meeting room was the county's Parent-Teacher Resource Center, which stocks most of its material and supplies in English and Spanish. According to Director



Bibb County Public Schools' ESOL teachers introduce themselves to the assembled parents and students.

Gwendolyn Russell, they are working on stocking other languages as well.

"It's so nice to see so many parents taking advantage of this opportunity," she told them, pausing every few words for the translation. Later on in the evening, parents and students were able to tour the Center to see its computers, printers, copiers, and projects and material to help students with their coursework.

Norma Walle, a Specialist with Migrant Education, says they help with students in school as well as helping the parents translate in every day situations.

Working in connection with the ESOL program, they primarily focus on the migrant population, and they have funds set aside to help families with necessities like eyeglasses, food, and school supplies. "It's overwhelming with all the families moving in; the program is really growing," she says, further stressing they work with the entire family. "We want to help the parents take some English and computer classes; the students really benefit from getting help at home."

Joanne Hinman, Head of Children's Programs for the Public Library System, was on hand to let the parents and children know that not speaking fluent English should not hinder them from seeing what the library has to offer. "It's free, we have books for every age, and we do have books in other languages," she says, also encouraging them to come to the weekly story time. "Story time, whether you speak English or not, is something children can understand."

Throughout the evening, door prizes were raffled off, including candles, school supplies, and gift certificates from Korgers, Publix, and Target. "Every community person we called was very eager to help," praises Reeves.

"That speaks volumes for the community's support," adds Pratt. Turning and watching the kids read through the instructional material and comparing door prizes as well as the parents asking specific questions of the representatives and teachers, she says with misty eyes, "I miss this with all my heart and soul."

January in the Bibb County Public Schools

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Through Jan 20 – Teacher and Parent referrals for students to be tested for the Gifted & Talented Program. Talk to your teacher for more information	10 Through Jan 12 – Classrooms of the 21st Century display at Hutchings High, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	11 Building Block @ Hamilton Elementary, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Differentiated Strategies for Middle School Math Teachers (6th-8th grade) @ Hutchings High, 8:30-3:30	12 "Let's Get Ready for College" workshop with Dr. Ranard Mattox of Educational Talent Search, 6:30 p.m., Hutchings High Cafeteria	13 Macon State College's Open House for their new Education Department Deadline for returning Magnet student to reserve their spot for next school year.	14 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall
15 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	16 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	17 Parents Assuring Student Success (PASS) workshop at McEvoy Middle Differentiated Strategies for Middle School Math Teachers (6th-8th grade) @ Hutchings High 8:30-3:30	18 Building Block @ Hamilton, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sponsored by the After School Program Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	19 Geometry Differentiated Strategies for High School Math Teachers @ Hutchings High 8:30-3:30 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	20 Geometry Differentiated Strategies for High School Math Teachers @ Hutchings High 8:30-3:30 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	21 Through Jan 22 – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall
22 Last Day – "Bibb County Teachers R.O.C.K!" Teacher exhibit at Macon Mall	23 Through Jan 27 – Open House for all Magnet Schools (contact schools for specific dates and times)	24 2nd Grade GPS Training Day 3 @ Renaissance Academy 8:30-3:30 Parents Assuring Student Success (PASS) workshop at McEvoy Middle	25 7th Grade GPS Training Day 3 @ Renaissance Academy 8:30-3:30. Family Fun Nite @ Jones Elementary, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Renaissance Academy Performance Learning Center Graduation, 7:00 p.m	26 Differentiated Strategies for 4th-5th grade teachers @ Hutchings High 8:30-3:30	27	28 Ti-15 Calculator Workshop for 3rd-5th grade teachers @ Career Center Annex 8:00-1:00. January 28 - Bibb County Student Technology Fair
29	30 Pre-K Registration at Burke, Barden, and King-Danforth Elementary Schools.	31 Parents Assuring Student Success (PASS) workshop at McEvoy Middle. Algebra For All Workshop @ Career Center Lab 8:00-3:00. Pre-K Registration at Carter, Rice, and Williams Elementary Schools				