

# The Learning Curve

This page was written and designed by Education First in cooperation with the Bibb County Board of Education, the Peyton Anderson Foundation, and The Telegraph.



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

## Parent Teacher Resource Center offers additional services to Bibb County parents, teachers, and staff.

All services are free to Bibb County Parents as a component of their new parent involvement program. Teachers and other staff will be charged a minimal fee. All projects must be educationally related.

### Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday  
10:00a.m. - 12 p.m.  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

### Equipment provided for use

Ellison Machines  
Two large and Two small  
Approximately 400 dies

Two Laminating Machines  
Limit fifteen minutes per visit

Two Copier Machines  
Risograph - 20 or more copies  
Regular - 19 or less copies  
Limit 100 copies per visit

Poster Maker Machine  
Limit three per visit

Book Binder Machine  
Sizes - One inch and one-half inch

Computers  
Ten, all connected to the internet

### Price List for Teachers and Staff

Each teacher or board employee receives a \$3.00 credit for services used on each visit.

Copies  
\$0.04 pre copy  
Limit 100 per visit

Posters  
\$2.00 per poster  
Limit 3 per visit

Lamination  
\$0.40 per foot  
Fifteen minute limit

Gwendolyn Russell, PTRC Manager  
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## Taylor Elementary invites local realtors to tour school



Realtors from Fickling & Co. follow Taylor students up and down the halls, admiring the new facilities.

"Some parents don't know what good schools we have," says Stephanie Ward of Macon Mortgage as she sets up a refreshment table at Taylor Elementary School.

"If they don't come in, they don't know what is here," agrees Mary Beth Conn of Conn Realty, running back and forth, making sure volunteer students are in place and ready to greet the day's honored guests.

A while back, a realtor friend of Principal Susan Simpson's - commenting on the new facilities and all Taylor has to offer - suggested she invite local realtors in for a tour of the school. According to Simpson, the advice she was given was "let's see if we can get them into the school system. They sell houses around here and need to know what the schools are doing."

With that in mind, she contacted Conn,

who is the PTA Co-President at Taylor along with Marsha Lewis; they jumped on the idea. According to Conn, when showing off houses, a majority of people's first question is "how are the schools in the area."

Lewis - who just moved here three years ago and now lives around the corner from Taylor - uses herself as an example: "I told my realtor, don't take me to my houses yet. Show me three schools." After touring them and the surround areas, then she asked to see a selection of homes. "We're really glad we chose Taylor," she says, adding her husband is very supportive of public schools in general and is excited they found such a gem.

"We really like to showcase our new building," says Simpson. "We wanted an opportunity to show the realtors that Rosa Taylor is truly a neighborhood school."

As realtors from Re/Max Macon, Fickling & Co., and Conn Realty came in the front door, they were greeted by 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade REACH (the gifted and talented program in Bibb County Public Schools) students. They led them in to the office and "officially" checked them in, showing off the schools new computer which logs all visitors and prints out nametags.

"We love the new system," says Simpson. "It makes is so much easier to keep track of who's here, who they're visiting, how long they were here, and, most importantly, the amount of hours school volunteers are working in the school."

From there, students led them around the school, showing off the many features. In the library, they were shown the computer systems which featured new instructional programs, ways for students to check their classroom progress, the ability for parents to check grades online, and an updated web page with a variety of school information.

"Impressive," comments Israel Benn of Fickling & Co..

As the students led them up and down each grade's hall, they pointed out landmarks like the Memorial Garden being constructed in memory of a favored teacher. Along the way, they related personal stories of which teachers they had, what classrooms they had been in, and some of their own personal accomplishments.

According to Billy Hester of Fickling & Co., they had received an invitation from Conn, and an announcement was made at their morning meeting. "We wanted to see what the new school had to offer," he says. They asked questions about how long they had been in the new building, how long their guides had been going to school there, and which school they would be feeding into.

"It's very nice [in here]," says David Sentnall, also with Fickling & Co., looking around the main lobby.

"We want to attract families to live here," says REACH teacher Wanda Thigpen, smiling proudly as her students show off their school.

## Rice Elementary celebrates Character Education with yearly parade

"It's a chance for them to show off the character traits and bring awareness to the parents and the community," says Dr. Jackie Walden, Principal of Jessie Rice Elementary.

For the second year, School Counselor Trudy Sampson has organized the school's Character Education Parade. Two students from each class are picked for exemplifying certain traits and are asked to participate. The class will then design a poster board showing off different aspects of the trait.

Character education is a program developed in 1997 and implemented in 2000 which focuses on a student's development of certain character traits, including courage, patriotism, citizenship, honesty, fairness, respect for others, kindness, cooperation, self-respect, self-control, courtesy, compassion, tolerance, diligence, generosity, punctuality, cleanliness, cheerfulness, school pride, respect for the environment, respect for the creator, patience, creativity, sportsmanship, loyalty, perseverance, and virtue. The definitions of these traits were outlined in 1997 and are now a part of Georgia's Quality Care for Children (QCC) Guidelines.

The state sends each district a list of the words, their definitions, and suggestions on how to instruct the students fully on what they mean in the real world. Bibb County Public Schools assigns one word per work and organizes them into monthly themes.

Throughout the week, students are told the definition, shown examples of people in the real world who exemplify the traits, shown how they can exemplify them, and given activities revolving around that week's word.

"We're trying to prepare them for the real world," says Walden. "We want them to be well-rounded."

She started the tradition of a parade while she was a Counselor at Union Elementary, and with the students there looking forward to it every year, "it's something I wanted to continue doing [at Rice]."

The Parade is held at the school's first PTSO meeting, with each pair of students being called across the stage to show off their display. With the students beaming at being the center of attention and applause, Sampson will announce their names, their class, and what the word they are displaying means.

"Please remember to encourage your children to practice good character traits at all time," she tells the assembled parents.

"We're bringing awareness to character education because it's such an integral part of our curriculum," says Walden.

For more in-depth information on the character education program, its designated words, and their meanings, visit <http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/gei/chared/homepg.htm>.

Sampson leaves the students, parents,

and teachers with inspirational words to think about, pointing out that by practicing good character traits, these words will not be hard to live by: "watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."



Students walked across the stage by class to show off their displays on the character traits they exemplified.