

# The RESA Reporter

March - April 2023



## **Note from the Executive Director**

Spring is almost here and we are excited to launch several new initiatives to provide service to our regional school systems in the South Metro Region. Griffin RESA is pleased to announce:

- Our annual program, called Pre-TAPP, for those interested in teaching but have not yet secured a contracted teaching position. After completing the summer coursework, a list of eligible candidates will be provided to our school systems that may have vacancies for the 2023-2024 school year in the participant's field of study. To qualify for this program, participants must meet the eligibility requirements listed on our website at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net). Once on the website, please click on the burgundy box entitled "TAPP/Teacher Recruitment."
- Several of our regional student competitions are underway. Results from recent competitions are included in this newsletter and we'll have more results in the next newsletter.
- The next cohort for Tier I and Tier II Ed Leadership Certification in our Georgia Alternative Program for Educational Leadership (APEL) program is scheduled to begin in August 2023. Each Tier is a one-year job-embedded pathway for candidates with a Master's Degree or higher, seeking Tier I or Tier II Ed Leadership Certification. To qualify for the program, participants must meet the eligibility requirements listed on our website at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net). Once on the website, please click on the burgundy box entitled "Leadership Development/APEL."

Take a peek inside this newsletter for more information about all the above services and MUCH MORE!

Cordially,

Dr. Stephanie Gordy  
Executive Director

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# Exceptional Children's Week

## Georgia CEC Exceptional Children's Week

MARCH 6-10, 2023

THEME:

**Power in Our  
Differences**

**Everyone is an important piece  
of the team.**

Georgia CEC Exceptional Children's Week  
March 6 - 10, 2023

The *Exceptional Children's Week* was created by Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) to educate the public about children with exceptionalities and seek support for Special Education. This week puts focus on the capabilities of children and youth with exceptionalities and community programs that support them.

*\*Georgia Council for Exceptional Children*

### 5 Steps to Managing Emotions

*Take 3 deep breaths.  
Use my words to say how I  
feel and what I wish to  
happen.  
Remind myself that it is  
never okay to hurt others.  
Take time to calm down.  
Ask for help to solve the  
problem.*

\*pinterest.com

### Social Skills

*Taking turns  
Praising (no put downs)  
Sharing materials  
Asking for help  
Using quiet voices  
Participating equally  
Staying on task  
Saying kind things  
Encouraging others  
Waiting patiently  
Accepting differences  
Listening actively  
Following directions*

\*pinterest.com

# ANNUAL TRANSITION FAIR

March 16, 2023

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*The Regional Transition Consortium will host the annual Transition Fair. The Transition Fair provides an opportunity for students and families to hear from speakers and vendors about available resources, as students plan to transition to post-secondary and/or the work force.*

*Please contact GLRS Program Specialist Dr. Sandi Jones at [sjones@griffinresa.net](mailto:sjones@griffinresa.net).*

The fair is designed to assist parents, students with disabilities, and educators with life after high school. Students and their parents can connect with local agencies for information on independent living programs, college & career training programs and more.

Information and resources to parents will be provided to help with preparation for their child's future.

***Preparation is the key to success!***

Griffin Region College and Career Academy  
221 Spalding Dr.  
Griffin, GA 30223



# GRIFFIN RESA SCHOOL CLIMATE UPDATE

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

Are you a counselor, school leader, teacher, social worker, or school support staff member who serves adolescents in middle or high school? Could you use training to respond to a student in crisis in the class or school setting proactively? If so, then join us Wednesday, March 29, 2023. This session is for initial certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This is a free training specifically for our regional school districts: Butts, Fayette, Griffin-Spalding, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, and Thomaston-Upson.

Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is a full-day public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help.

### PARTICIPANTS LEARN:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies



### Professional Learning Opportunity

Would you know how to respond to a student in crisis?

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

**Location:**  
**Griffin RESA**  
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Dates:**  
December 7, 2022  
Or  
March 29, 2023

**FREE Training & Registration**  
[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

**Participants will earn:**  
YMHFA Certification  
Sign up quickly!  
**30 seat maximum**



This session is only available to participants in our member systems.

**Sponsored by:**  
GaDOE School Climate

**ABOUT THE COURSE**  
Youth Mental Health First Aid USA is a full day public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help

**PARTICIPANTS LEARN**

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies



## SCHOOL CLIMATE TRAININGS

There are a variety of systems that help improve school climate and culture through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Collaborative work and coaching with your Griffin RESA School Climate Specialist and GaDOE School Program Specialist are available. Please contact your School Climate Specialist, Kendra Cook, at Griffin RESA for further information about the following at (770) 229-3247 ext. 228:

- Universal Classroom Supports Training
- Early Learning Classroom Training
- PBIS Tier 1 & 2 Training
- PBIS Tier 2 Coaching

In addition, we can share details about other training opportunities such as *Sources of Strength* (suicide prevention) and *Check and Connect* (dropout prevention) as we get closer to planning the 2023-2024 school year. Let us know how we can best support you to be of service to our educators and students in our region!

# MARCH 28, 2023



## 2023 STaRLT SEMINAR

*hosted by Griffin RESA*



**NO COST**

### STRATEGIES FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS

Join us for a one-day seminar with multiple presenters sharing strategies and resources for World Language classroom success.

The STaRLT Seminar will start with a welcome address by Patrick Wallace, World Language Specialist for Ga DOE, followed by 4 sessions of concurrent presentations.



**MARCH 28, 2023**  
9:00 AM- 3:30 PM

Griffin RESA  
440 Tilney Avenue  
Griffin, GA 30224



**REGISTER  
ONLINE**

[www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)

### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Teaching interculturality
- Communicative language teaching
- Ditching the textbook
- Teaching language through culture
- Technology integration



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(770) 229-3247

# ANNUAL CERTIFIED EDUCATOR JOB FAIR



**REGIONAL TEACHER JOB FAIR**

Saturday, April 29, 2023 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Location: Luella High School  
603 Walker Drive, Locust Grove, GA 30248

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Those eligible for teaching certification for the 2023-2024 school year

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Information about South Metro Suburban Region & Schools
- Meet staff and representatives from eight (8) South Metro Suburban School Systems representing 125+ schools and over 100,000 students
- Human Resources Staff from Regional School Systems including Henry County, Fayette County, Newton County, Spalding County, Upson County, Butts County, Pike County & Lamar County

**WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:**

- At least 15 copies of a one-page resume to provide System Human Resources & School Reps

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - form is available at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net). For more information contact Griffin Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) at 770-229-3247.

Come Teach in the Highest Performing & Fastest Growing Region in Georgia



Representatives from the Griffin RESA TAPP (Teacher Alternative Preparation Program) will also be on hand to answer questions for eligible participants. To check eligibility requirements, please visit [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net) and click on "TAPP/Teacher Recruitment" and then click on "GA TAPP Program Info."

*8 South Metro Suburban School Systems representing 125+ schools*

***Pre-registration is required - link below:***

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

# *Check out Griffin RESA's April 2023 and May 2023 Classes*

## April 2023 Classes

MTSS Job Alike	4/19
SLP Collaborative	4/21
Mental Control and Self Regulation of Executive Functions	4/25
Writing Across the Content Areas	4/27

## May 2023 Classes

Formative Assessment: Establishing and Maintaining a Routine of Checking for Understanding	5/2-6/6
Using Games to Teach Mathematics: K-12 Math Teachers	5/3
Turning Reading Assessment Data into Targeted Instruction	5/4
GA PSC Ethics for Paraprofessionals	5/9 - 5/23
Classroom Management for 6-12 Teachers	5/10
High Impact Math Strategies PK-12 Math	5/31

**Registration available at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net)**

# WINNERS OF THE GRIFFIN RESA 2022-2023 LITERACY DAYS COMPETITION

## Grades 3-5 Winners

### Poetry Recitation 3rd Grade Winners

First Place – Jaída Shields, Kedron Elementary, *Fayette County Schools*  
Second Place – Harper Kaiser, Rocky Creek Elementary, *Henry County Schools*  
Third Place – Kaylee Zoeckler, Stark Elementary, *Butts County Schools*

### Poetry Recitation 4th Grade Winners

First Place – Zoey Henley, Futral Road Elementary, *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Second Place – Gabriel Washington, Fairview Elementary, *Henry County Schools*  
Third Place – Emma Dunn, Upson Lee Elementary, *Thomaston-Upson County Schools*

### Poetry Recitation 5th Grade Winners

First Place – Dabriele Lominy, Woodland Elementary, *Henry County Schools*  
Second Place – Ava Novotny, Stark Elementary, *Butts County Schools*  
Third Place – Piper Kendrick, Cleveland Elementary, *Fayette County Schools*

### Ready Writing 3rd Grade Winners

First Place – Callie Williams, Jordan Hill Elementary, *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Second Place – Axel Bunn, Upson-Lee Elementary, *Thomaston-Upson County Schools*  
Third Place – Ansley Cooley, Daughtry Elementary, *Butts County Schools*

### Ready Writing 4th Grade Winners

First Place – Ra'ziyah Parks, Upson-Lee Elementary, *Thomaston-Upson County Schools*  
Second Place – Khylan Clark, Daughtry Elementary, *Butts County Schools*  
Third Place – Lowell Howard, Newton County Theme School, *Newton County Schools*

### Ready Writing 5th Grade Winners

First Place – Lila Ingram, Daughtry Elementary, *Butts County Schools*  
Second Place – Ivy Lee, Crescent Road Elementary, *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Third Place – Anthony Hortman, Oak Hill Elementary, *Newton County Schools*

### Drama (Grades 3-5) Winners

First Place – Porterdale Elementary, "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter," *Newton County Schools*  
Second Place – Futral Road Elementary, "The Stinky Cheese Man," *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Third Place – Jackson Elementary, "Argument at Mount Rushmore," *Butts County Schools*

## Grades 6-8 Winners

### Poetry Recitation 6th Grade Winners

First Place – Clayton Mayfield, Whitewater MS, *Fayette County Schools*  
Second Place – Journey Standbridge, Lamar County MS, *Lamar County Schools*  
Third Place – Cameron Bell, Woodland MS, *Henry County Schools*

### Poetry Recitation 7th Grade Winners

First Place – Tiana Wately, Clements MS, *Newton County Schools*  
Second Place – Tessa Tutwan, Locust Grove MS, *Henry County Schools*  
Third Place – Emme Goen, Upson-Lee MS, *Thomaston-Upson County Schools*

### Poetry Recitation 8th Grade Winners

First Place – Houleymatou Diallo, Dutchtown MS, *Henry County Schools*  
Second Place – Karmari Moreland, Bennett's Mill MS, *Fayette County Schools*  
Third Place – Maren Poynter, Newton County Theme School, *Newton County Schools*

### Ready Writing 6th Grade Winners

First Place – Ophelia Matti, Rehoboth Road MS, *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Second Place – Zehra Sorrow, Whitewater MS, *Fayette County Schools*  
Third Place – Kelaiah Watson, Lamar County MS, *Lamar County Schools*

### Ready Writing 7th Grade Winners

First Place – Harper Cafferty, Ola MS, *Henry County Schools*  
Second Place – Avery Lindseth, Rising Starr MS, *Fayette County Schools*  
Third Place – Rebekah Goodman, Henderson MS, *Butts County Schools*

### Ready Writing 8th Grade Winners

First Place – Allie Kemp, Rising Starr MS, *Fayette County Schools*  
Second Place – Emma Carlton, Rehoboth Road MS, *Griffin-Spalding County Schools*  
Third Place – Charles Henderson, Indian Creek MS, *Newton County Schools*

### Drama (Grades 6-8) Winners

First Place – Mrs. Burch's Team, Pike County MS, *Pike County Schools*  
Second Place – Mrs. Branan's Team, Lamar County MS, *Lamar County Schools*  
Third Place – Dr. Rogers' Team, Clements MS, *Newton County Schools*

**Congratulations to the winners of the Griffin RESA 2022-2023 Regional Literacy Days Competition!**

**The 2023 Griffin RESA Literacy Days Festival is a regional competition among elementary and middle schools in the Griffin RESA region, which consists of the following school systems:**

**Butts  
Fayette  
Henry  
Lamar  
Newton  
Pike  
Griffin-Spalding  
Thomaston-Upson**





# Winners of the 2023 Griffin RESA Regional Science & Engineering Fair

WE WISH THIS  
YEAR'S  
WINNERS WELL  
AS THEY  
REPRESENT  
OUR REGION AT  
THE STATE AND  
THE  
REGENERON  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCIENCE &  
ENGINEERING  
FAIR (ISEF)  
THIS SPRING!



## Congratulations to Winners of the 2023 Griffin RESA Regional Science & Engineering Fair!

The following school systems had winners:

**Butts County Schools:** Henderson MS

**Fayette County Schools:** Booth MS, Fayette County HS, Flat Rock MS, McIntosh HS, Rising Starr MS, Sandy Creek HS, Starr's Mill HS, Whitewater HS, Whitewater MS

**Griffin-Spalding County Schools:** Kennedy Road MS, Rehoboth Road MS

**Newton County Schools:** Alcovy HS, Indian Creek MS, Newton College & Career Academy, Newton County Theme, Newton HS

**The top three projects in the senior division:**

Briana Jones – Newton College & Career Academy

Aadi Vaidya – McIntosh High

Roshan Kolachina – McIntosh High

The Griffin RESA Regional Science & Engineering Fair is a regional competition among middle and high schools in the Griffin RESA region. The 1st place projects in the fair will compete at the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair (GSEF), in Athens, Georgia, March 2023. The top three projects in the Senior Division will participate in the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF), in Dallas, Texas, May 2023.

# WINNERS OF THE GRIFFIN RESA 2022-2023 REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH CONTEST

## Congratulations to the Winners of the Griffin RESA 2022-2023 Regional Middle School Math Contest



The Griffin RESA Middle School Math Contest is a regional competition among middle schools in the Griffin RESA region, which consists of the following school systems:

Butts, Fayette, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Griffin-Spalding and Thomaston-Upson. Over 27 middle schools and 135 students participated.

### *Congratulations to the Winners of the Griffin RESA 2022-2023 Regional Middle School Math Contest*

#### **Winners of the 2022-2023 MS Math Contest**

##### **Team Winners:**

###### **Division I (Smaller Schools)**

**1st Place** – Liberty Tech Charter School  
**2nd Place** – Newton County Theme School  
**3rd Place** – Rehoboth Road Middle School

###### **Division II (Medium Schools)**

**1st Place** – Whitewater Middle School  
**2nd Place** – Cousins Middle School  
**3rd Place** – Luella Middle School

###### **Division III (Larger Schools)**

**1st Place** – Rising Starr Middle School  
**2nd Place** – JC Booth Middle School  
**3rd Place** – Bennett's Mill Middle School

##### **Individual Winners Overall:**

**1st Place** – Oliver Reid, Newton County Theme School  
**2nd Place** – Simon Morano, Bennett's Mill Middle School  
**3rd Place** – Sara Marsh, JC Booth Middle School

# ***May is Better Speech and Hearing Month***

Better Speech and Hearing Month was founded in 1972 by The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Early intervention for hearing loss is key and crucial.

This annual event is an opportunity to encourage individuals to reflect on their own hearing and to schedule appointments to get their hearing checked. In addition, the event is to raise awareness about hearing and speech issues.

Approximately 5% of the world's population experiences hearing loss. While 5% of the population is also thought to experience problems with speech.



Griffin RESA Audiological Services

School systems served: Butts, Fayette, Griffin-Spalding, Henry, Lamar, Newton, Pike, Thomaston-Upson

Ages served:  
Ages 2-21 if enrolled in participating system or is eligible for enrollment.  
Students are seen by appointment only.

Contact Information:  
Griffin RESA Audiology Department:  
(770) 229-3247 ext. 223 or  
1-800-487-7372 ext. 223 (from Upson County)

Visit our website at [www.griffinresa.net](http://www.griffinresa.net) to learn more about the Audiological Services.

