



## THE EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR



Canton Public  
School District  
Canton, MS

August 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 1

# Every child! Every chance! Every day!

## Welcome Back!!

As we prepare to embark on the 2018-19 school year, we extend a heartfelt welcome to new and returning teachers of the Office of Exceptional Services. We hope each of you have had an opportunity to have some fun and relax this summer. For many teachers, the beginning of the school year is a time filled with excitement and anticipation as they prepare to reacquire themselves with their students and new administration.

Our commitment is to continue to lead the district with integrity and work with staff to provide a well-rounded education that allows each student to reach his/her fullest potential. We have high expectations for ourselves, staff, and our students. In return, we ask for a commitment from all OES staff and assistants.

## It's our Winning Season!!!



## Teacher of the Month

Mrs.  
Brittany  
Johnson



Brittany M. Johnson is a Special Education Teacher at McNeal Elementary School in the Canton Public School District, Canton, MS.

Brittany is a native of Carthage, MS. Her love for teaching and especially in Special Education started at an early age. First, her love for teaching was instilled in her because her father was a teacher and coach for 31 years at South Leake High School in Walnut Grove, MS. Her interest in Special Education stemmed from the fact that her baby brother was born with multiple disabilities. Through him, she learned about the special care that it takes to teach children with exceptional abilities and challenges.

Brittany received her BS in Special Education from Jackson State University. She began her teaching career in the Rankin County School District where she taught for one year. She then worked in the Jackson Public School District for 6 years where she served in the capacity of teacher and Program Specialist. While working there she received her Masters degree in Special Education and her Specialist degree in Psychometry from Jackson State University.

She is married to Rev. Walter Johnson, III and they are the parents of Amayah Johnson.

IMPORTANT  
NOTICE

The Office of Exceptional Services is in the process of relocating to the Charlie Lee Lockett Annex, located on the Nichols Middle School campus. We can be reached at 769-234-5069 until our phones are transferred. We will update once this process is complete.

## Office Relocation



### 12 Tips on Successful IEP Meetings

- Send parents the Notice of Invitation of Committee Meeting 3-5 days in advance (at least 3 attempts)
- Provide parents copy of revised IEP
- Notify ALL IEP Committee members of the scheduled meeting date, location, and time.
- Collect data and any pertinent information/documents prior to meeting date
- Come to the meeting positive and prepared
- Have supporting documents/class work.
- Please remember to bring IEP binder, Written Prior Notice, and IEP Committee documentation form.)
- Provide copy of Procedural Safeguards to parents and explain it for their understanding.
- Make introductions and discuss purpose for meeting.
- Ask and encourage parent participation.
- Gain IEP participant signatures.
- Complete and send Written Prior Notice for any actions proposed and/or refused.

### Important Dates to Remember

- ✓ August 28<sup>th</sup> – Transition Services parent meeting on the campus of Goodloe/Porter from 5-6 p.m.
- ✓ August 29<sup>th</sup> – MET Meeting
- ✓ September 12<sup>th</sup> – MET Meeting
- ✓ September 26<sup>th</sup> – MET Meeting

### Employee of the Month

*LaQuandra Jones – CPSD Psychometrist*



For over 10 years, LaQuandra has served in the educational capacity as a school counselor and psychometrist. She's also worked in the mental health setting as a therapist in both community and psychiatric hospitals. Her hobbies include playing tennis and bowling.

She's always on the road traveling with her backseat driver, Mia Bailey who's 3 years old. Her rule for living, "Do good, God knows your heart and he will handle the rest".



### Meet the OES Team



### Department Contacts

#### The Office of Exceptional Services Staff:

**Phone-601-859-2179/Fax 601-855-2611**

**Office Admin. Asst.** – La'Donna Nichols

[ladonnanichols@cantonschools.net](mailto:ladonnanichols@cantonschools.net)

**Case Manager** – Asia Childress

[asiachildress@cantonschools.net](mailto:asiachildress@cantonschools.net)

**Psychometrist** – LaQuandra Jones

[laquandrajones@cantonschools.net](mailto:laquandrajones@cantonschools.net)

**Behavior Specialist** – Preston Johnson

[prestonjohnson@cantonschools.net](mailto:prestonjohnson@cantonschools.net)

**Alternative/Home Bound Instructor** – Catina Anderson

[catinaanderson@cantonschools.net](mailto:catinaanderson@cantonschools.net)

**Director** – Shelia Anthony

[sheliaanthony@cantonschools.net](mailto:sheliaanthony@cantonschools.net)