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NEWS RELEASE

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State Supt. Woods to Honor Thomson Middle School Aug. 29



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – State School Superintendent Richard Woods will visit Thomson Middle School on Aug. 29, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. He will recognize Thomson Middle for earning Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) certification and present a STEM banner.

Thomson Middle was awarded STEM certification by a GaDOE during an evaluation visit held in May. Thomson is one of only 14 middle schools in Georgia, and the first middle school in Houston County, to earn this certification. In addition, Thomson is the first Title 1 middle school to be granted Whole School certification; 12 of the 14 schools in Georgia are program certified and only one other is STEM certified for the whole school.



The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has rigorous criteria for schools to achieve STEM certification. Schools must present evidence of teacher collaboration, business and industry partnerships, high levels of math and science lessons and a project-based STEM curriculum. The state defines STEM education as an integrated curriculum driven by problem solving, discovery, exploratory project/problem-based learning and student-centered development of ideas and solutions. The saturation of technology in most fields means that all students – not just those who plan to pursue a STEM profession – will require a solid foundation in STEM to be productive members of the workforce.

During the visit, Superintendent Woods will talk with students, educators and other stakeholders about how the GaDOE can improve communications, foster collaboration and support child-focused, classroom-centered policies.

Thomson Middle is Houston County's third school to earn this rigorous certification. Northside Elementary and Eagle Springs Elementary earned the certification during the 2015 - 2016 school year. Thomson Middle School is located 301 Thomson Street in Centerville. For more information, please contact Principal Dr. Walter Stephens at 478-953-0489 or visit <http://stemgeorgia.org>.

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