

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*is to pursue excellence  
in academic knowledge,  
skills, and behavior  
for each student,  
resulting in measured  
improvement against  
local, national, and  
world-class standards.*

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools  
not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex,  
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any  
employment practice, educational program, or  
any other program, activity, or service.

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## **Summerour MS' Parker-Jarrett named national advocate**

A Gwinnett County school principal will be honored this month by a national organization of educators for her unconditional support of school counselors and the field of school counseling. **Dorothy Parker-Jarrett**, principal of Gwinnett's **Summerour Middle** in the Norcross Cluster, has been invited to Minneapolis where she will be formally recognized this summer as the 2012 ASCA (American School Counseling Association) Advocate of the Year. The national organization will present Ms. Parker-Jarrett with the award at its recognition dinner on Monday, June 25, during the ASCA Annual Conference.

"Ms. Jarrett's enthusiasm and appreciation for the work of her counseling team is evident in her words but also rings true through her actions," says **J. Alvin Wilbanks, Gwinnett County Public Schools' CEO and Superintendent**. "She believes in the power of effective counseling to improve the lives of students and supports her team with resources, encouragement, and her personal time."

School counselors from throughout the district as well as Gwinnett's leadership team heard Ms. Parker-Jarrett's passionate words in February of 2011 when the school system presented her with the 2011 Gwinnett County Mary Joe Hannaford Counseling Advocate of the Year award. Her Summerour Middle counseling team nominated her for the districtwide honor. She later earned the Region II award, the state recognition, and now the national honor. When notified this spring that she had been selected for this national award, Ms. Parker-Jarrett expressed, "I am so humbled by this awesome award. I have and will always appreciate what school counselors do to support teaching and learning in our schools...I never imagined I would be receiving this letter! I accept and I look forward to representing all the advocates who value counselors around the United States."

--more--

2010 Winner of



Dorothy Parker-Jarrett recently completed her third year as principal of Summerour Middle. The veteran educator joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 2002 as a teacher at South Gwinnett High after serving schools in DeKalb County and Illinois. She also served South Gwinnett High as an assistant principal (2004-2009) before being named principal of Summerour Middle in 2009. A graduate of the school district's 2007 Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Aspiring Principal Program, Ms. Parker-Jarrett holds certification in Leadership and Supervision from the University of Georgia. She earned her bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Western Michigan University, and a master's degree in Special Education from Benedictine University.