



NEWS RELEASE

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North Gwinnett MS breaks through in its first year

The Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP) took notice of **North Gwinnett Middle**'s achievements in its first year of serving Gwinnett students, presenting the school with two of its highest honors. GASSP named North Gwinnett Middle one of Georgia's 13 Breakout Middle Schools. In addition, the school also was recognized as one of seven Distinguished Breakout Middle Schools. These are the highest honors a middle school can earn through the GASSP organization. The awards are a significant recognition for North Gwinnett Middle as the school has been serving students for only one school year. It opened in August of 2009. The organization recognizes schools that embody best-practices to support student achievement.

"This is a wonderful award for our students and staff," says **Wanda Law**, North Gwinnett Middle's principal. "As a first-year school, we started strong with some new initiatives and the support of our community." Ms. Law explains that some of those best practices contributed to the organization's interest in North Gwinnett Middle. For example, the school offers acceleration for all students, providing the opportunity to participate in accelerated classes in mathematics and science. Other initiatives include 8th graders mentoring 6th graders, and school clubs offered during the school day to allow all students the opportunity to participate in a social activity at school. Ms. Law explains, "The dedication of the staff to try these new ideas, to recognize students as leaders, to collaborate with one another, and to challenge students to their highest achievement levels are all reasons why our school is being recognized."

GASSP presented the school with its award during a recent gathering in Jekyll Island. The school serves more than 1,700 students in the North Gwinnett Cluster.

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