



NEWS RELEASE

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Brookwood High's Dees named "Ga. HS Principal of Year"

The Georgia Association of Secondary High School Principals (GASSP) recently announced that a **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** principal was named the 2011-2012 Georgia High School Principal of the Year. That recognition was presented to **Debbie Dees**, principal of Gwinnett's **Brookwood High**. Ms. Dees now will represent Georgia in the national competition for the NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals)/MetLife National Principal of the Year title. The "Principal of the Year" recognition program recognizes school principals that excel in educational leadership, resolving complex problems, developing self and others, and who give back to their communities through community service.

Debbie Dees has been a GCPS school administrator for 10 years. But she began serving Gwinnett students long before that when she joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1990 as a teacher and coach at Meadowcreek High. Six years later she moved to Brookwood High where she served as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal. She was named Brookwood High's principal in 2007. Ms. Dees also has taught in several other schools in south Georgia.

A graduate of the school district's Quality-Plus Leader Academy, Debbie Dees holds a bachelor's degree from Mercer University in Health and Physical Education, a master's degree from Georgia Southwestern University, and a specialist's degree from the University of West Georgia. She also is certified in educational leadership from the University of Georgia.

This school year has been a special one for Ms. Dees as she also received the 2010 Jim Puckett Outstanding Educator Award from the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) and the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals (GASSP).

Ms. Dees will be formally recognized as Georgia's top high school principal next September in Washington, D.C.

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