

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOLS

2015-2016 Highlights

SANDY CREEK HIGH

- **\$150,000 Computer Science Learning Grant Awarded to Sandy Creek High**

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has announced that Sandy Creek High is one of four recipients in the state to receive \$150,000 as a winner of the Innovation in K-8 Mathematics and/or K-12 Computer Science/Coding Professional Learning Grants.

The competitive grant program supports schools in improving instruction in mathematics and computer science through the development of innovative professional learning models.

- **Air Force JROTC Cadets Win Big at Leadership School**

Cadets from Sandy Creek High's Air Force JROTC (AFJROTC) program attended the Converse College Cadet Leadership School in Spartanburg, South Carolina, winning a total of 11 top awards, with one cadet walking away with the highest award of all.

Austin Culpepper, who was chosen to be the Commander of the entire school, earned the highest award given at the camp, the Commander's Award, for his stellar performance.

- **Athletes and Community Honored for Sportsmanship**

Sandy Creek High is one of 48 GHSA-member high schools that received the 2015 Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award from the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and Georgia's Electric Membership Corporation (Georgia EMC) for exemplary sportsmanship shown at competitive events during the school year. It not only recognizes the positive behavior of athletes, but also that of fellow students, school staff, parents, and event spectators, making the award an honor for both the school and community.

- **2016 Georgia AP Honor Schools List:**

- AP Stem Achievement School (127 schools in Georgia) and AP Stem School (199 schools in Georgia). Sixth consecutive year school has made both lists.
- AP Access and Support School (49 schools in Georgia)

- **SkillsUSA Chapter Named National Model of Excellence**

The school's chapter was named a SkillsUSA Model of Excellence for the second consecutive year, and is among the top 24 SkillsUSA chapters nationally.

- **Fayette County Teacher of the Year**

Math Teacher Suzette Weinhardt was named the 2016 Fayette County Teacher of the Year.

- **2016 South Atlanta Positive High School Athlete Award**

Antonio Trapp, football.

- **2016 Griffin RESA High School Math Contest**

Placed first in Division II, medium schools, for the second consecutive year.

Crabapple Lane Elementary

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a bronze award in the highest performing category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 106 schools across 15 districts earned highest performing awards.

- **FIRST Lego League Regional State Tournament**

The school's Mega Cardinals Robotics Team took third place in the competition. The first-year team of nine fourth and fifth graders secured victories at both the Regional and Super Regional in order to advance to the state level where they competed against 600 teams from Georgia, including teams from Fayette's middle schools.

North Fayette Elementary

- **Named Title I Reward School**

North Fayette Elementary made the list for the first time as a "Highest-Progress School," meaning that it is among the 10 percent of the state's Title I schools making the most progress in improving the performance of the "all students" group over three years on statewide assessments. Only 162 schools made the cut.

Flat Rock Middle

- **2016 Griffin RESA Middle School Math Contest**

Placed first in Division I, smaller schools.

- **Chorus Chosen to Open Gala Starring Kristin Chenoweth**

The seventh-grade show chorus at Flat Rock Middle was chosen by the ArtsBridge Foundation to perform at its annual fundraising gala, which featured Kristin Chenoweth as the headliner. The chorus was selected to showcase the talents of youth at the middle school level.

- **\$10,000 Computer Coding Grant**

The school is one of 51 winners across the nation (and the only one in Georgia) that received a \$10,000 award for teaching each student in the school an hour of computer coding by participating in the "Hour of Code" during National Computer Science Week.

FAYETTE COUNTY HIGH

- **Army JROTC Drill Unit Takes Top Placements at “Army Nationals”**

The U.S. Army JROTC drill unit at Fayette County High ranked among the top 20 units in the nation in two competition events at the 2016 U.S. Army JROTC National Drill Championships.

The unit placed eighth in the nation in Armed Inspection out of 44 units, and 15th in the nation in Armed Regulation out of 44 units.

- **Ranked in the Top Seven Percent of All U.S. High Schools**

School was listed on the Washington Post’s list of America’s Most Challenging High Schools at 1,516 of nearly 2,300 high schools that made the list.

- **2016 Georgia AP Honor Schools List:**

- AP Stem Achievement School (127 schools in Georgia) and AP Stem School (199 schools in Georgia). Fourth time school has made both lists.
- AP Access and Support School (49 schools in Georgia)
- AP Merit School (61 schools in Georgia). First time school made the list.

- **Step Team Wins State and National Awards**

The Fayette County High Majestic Tigers placed first in the High School Girls Division at the state competition, and claimed the title of State Grand Champion, scoring 106 out of a possible 100 points, making them the highest scoring team across all divisions.

The team’s victories at the state level advanced them to the National Steppers Association National Championship in Memphis, Tennessee where they placed second in the nation in the High School Girls Division.

- **Marching Tigers Selected to Perform in Florida Citrus Parade**

The Marching Tigers were among some of the top marching bands across the nation invited to participate in the parade in Orlando on December 30, 2015.

Spring Hill Elementary

- **First Fayette School to Earn FranklinCovey Lighthouse School Status**

Spring Hill Elementary is the first school in the county, and one of just three in Georgia, to earn the “Leader in Me Lighthouse School” designation. Currently, there are 151 schools in the United States and 174 worldwide that have been awarded Lighthouse School status.

Bennett’s Mill Middle

- **Students Earn Engineering Award**

An eighth grade engineering team competing in the National Fluid Power Association (NFPA) Fluid Power Challenge at the Georgia Institute of Technology won the Challenge Champion Award, one of five awards presented at the competition. They competed against 21 teams from seven schools across the Atlanta area.

Bennett's Mill Middle (cont.)

- **Greatest Gains Award and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a gold award in the greatest gains category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 127 schools across 49 districts received greatest gains awards.

WHITEWATER HIGH

- **Ranked in the Top Six Percent of All U.S. High Schools**

School was listed on the Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools at 1,348 of nearly 2,300 high schools that made the list.

- **2016 Georgia AP Honor Schools List:**

- AP Stem Achievement School (127 schools in Georgia) and AP Stem School (199 schools in Georgia). Sixth consecutive year school has made both lists.
- AP Merit School (61 schools in Georgia). Third consecutive year school has made the list.
- AP Humanities School (125 schools in Georgia). Second consecutive year school has made the list since it was added in 2015.

- **Drama Teacher Named Georgia Theatre Educator of the Year**

The Georgia Thespians, a chapter of the Education Theatre Association that sponsors the International Thespian Society, selected Susan Simich as the 2016 Theatre Educator of the Year.

- **Among Top High Schools in Nation for Ranked by U.S. News and World Report**

Earned silver medal for preparing students to be college and career ready. Only 6,218 high schools out of more than 21,500 nationwide received a medal. Just 10.9 percent of the schools earned silver medals.

- **German Language Students Excel on National Exam**

German language students at Whitewater High had a strong showing on the 2016 National German Exam with four students earning gold awards, and a total of 15 being named to the Presidential Honor Roll.

- **Soccer Team Receives National Honor for Academic Excellence**

Whitewater High is the only high school in the county, and one of just 53 nationwide, with both their boys' and girls' teams earning the National Soccer Coaches of America High School Team Academic Award. The boys' team finished the year with a combined GPA of 3.67, and the girls' team had a combined GPA of 3.87. Whitewater's boys' and girls' teams have received this award for past nine years, since the opening of the school.

- **First Teacher to Receive Social Studies Teacher of Promise Award**

The Georgia Council for the Social Studies presented its first annual Social Studies Teacher of Promise (TOP) award to social studies teacher Kerry Moore. The award recognizes beginning social studies teachers who show exceptional promise in the field of teaching social studies.

Sara Harp Minter Elementary

- **National Digital Citizenship Certification**

Sara Harp Minter Elementary has been recognized for its efforts in teaching students how to use their electronic devices in enriching and responsible ways by being designated as a “Common Sense Education Digital Citizenship Certified School” for 2015-2016 by Common Sense Media, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping youth and families effectively and safely navigate the world of digital media and technology.

Whitewater Middle

- **2016 Griffin RESA Middle School Math Contest**

Placed first in Division II, medium schools.

STARR'S MILL HIGH

- **2016 Griffin RESA High School Math Contest**

Placed first in Division III, larger schools, for the second consecutive year.

- **2016 Georgia AP Honor Schools List:**

- AP Stem Achievement School (127 schools in Georgia) and AP Stem School (199 schools in Georgia). Sixth consecutive year school has made both lists.
- AP Merit School (61 schools in Georgia). School has been on the list since 2008.
- AP Humanities School (125 schools in Georgia). Second consecutive year school has made the list since it was added in 2015.

- **National FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) Awards**

Annslee Tokar, who competed in the “Teach and Train” event, brought home a gold medal and a score of 91.33 out of 100. She was among the 95 Georgia students statewide who won gold medals in their events at the national conference.

Christine Rolfes and Dana Newman brought home silver medals in the “Entrepreneurship” event, earning a score of 83.33. They were among the 90 students in the state who won silver medals at the competition.

- **Among Top High Schools in Nation for Ranked by U.S. News and World Report**

Earned silver medal for preparing students to be college and career ready. Only 6,218 high schools out of more than 21,500 nationwide received a medal. Just 10.9 percent of the schools earned silver medals.

- **Ranked in the Top Five Percent of All U.S. High Schools**

School was listed on the Washington Post’s list of America’s Most Challenging High Schools at 1,186 of nearly 2,300 high schools that made the list.

- **2016 South Atlanta Positive High School Athlete Award**

Elena Wernecke, tennis.

- **Soccer Team Receives National Honor for Academic Excellence**

The Starr’s Mill High girl’s soccer team earned the National Soccer Coaches of America High School Team Academic Award with their combined GPA of 3.81. The team has received the award a total of nine years.

Braelinn Elementary

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a silver award in the highest performing category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 106 schools across 15 districts earned highest performing awards.

Oak Grove Elementary

- **Named Title I Reward School**

Oak Grove Elementary made the list for a fourth consecutive year as a “Highest-Performing School,” placing it among the five percent of the state’s Title I schools with the absolute highest performance, over three years, for the “all students” group on statewide assessments. Only 81 schools made the list.

- **Greatest Gains Award and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a gold award in the greatest gains category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 127 schools across 49 districts received greatest gains awards.

Peeples Elementary

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a platinum award in greatest gains and a gold award in highest performing based on CCRPI scores. Among just 46 in 12 districts that received awards in both categories.

- **\$5,000 Vibrant Communities Grant**

The Georgia Department of Economic Development’s Georgia Council for the Arts has selected Peeples Elementary as a recipient of its new Vibrant Communities grant. The school will receive \$5,000 to help cover expenses for its annual Cultural Arts Week program. The funds will be used to bring artists, performers, and presenters representing many different art forms to the school during the week of May 9-13.

Rising Starr Middle

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a gold award in the highest performing category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 106 schools across 15 districts earned highest performing awards.

- **Middle School Association Middle School Educator of the Year**

The highest honor that a Georgia middle school teacher can receive was bestowed on Christy Todd of Rising Starr Middle by the Georgia Middle School Association, naming her their 2016 Educator of the Year.

- **Georgia National Lighthouse School to Watch Recertification**

Rising Starr Middle remains a national and state model for middle school excellence by showing continued growth performance, earning recertification as a Georgia National Lighthouse School to Watch, an initiative of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Rising Starr Middle became a Georgia National Lighthouse School to Watch for the first time in 2004. The school serves as a role model and mentor to other schools as they strive to establish the same high performance. In order to remain in the program, schools must re-apply every three years to demonstrate continued growth. This is Rising Starr’s fourth recertification.

MCINTOSH HIGH

- **2016 Georgia AP Honor Schools List:**
 - AP Stem Achievement School (127 schools in Georgia) and AP Stem School (199 schools in Georgia). Sixth consecutive year school has made both lists.
 - AP Merit School (61 schools in Georgia). School has been on the list since 2012.
 - AP Humanities School (125 schools in Georgia). Second consecutive year school has made the list since it was added in 2015.
- **Ranked in the Top Four Percent of All U.S. High Schools**

School was listed on the Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High Schools at 975 of nearly 2,300 high schools that made the list.
- **Among Top High Schools in Nation for Ranked by U.S. News and World Report**

Earned silver medal for preparing students to be college and career ready. Only 6,218 high schools out of more than 21,500 nationwide received a medal. Just 10.9 percent of the schools earned silver medals.
- **Georgia's Top Flute Player Awarded Scholarship**

Rachel Anders, the first chair flute player in the McIntosh High Wind Ensemble, and was first chair in the 2016 All State Orchestra, a position she has earned several times over that is reserved for the number one student flute player in Georgia, received the Georgia Music Educators Association All State Band Scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship, nominees must be high school seniors who have been a member of an All State Band or Orchestra for at least three years, and are planning to major in music in college.
- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a platinum award in greatest gains and a bronze award in highest performing based on CCRPI scores. Among just 46 in 12 districts that received awards in both categories.
- **Students Represent Georgia at International Science Fair**

Gifted biology students at McIntosh High, Kylie Dickinson and Dorothy Lai, received invitations for the 2016 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair after being selected as the grand prize award winners at the Griffin RESA Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

They were among approximately 1,700 high school students, representing more than 75 countries, regions and territories, awarded the opportunity to showcase their independent research at this year's event. Their project was about the effects of gaseous DHP on fungal development
- **2016 South Atlanta Positive High School Athlete Award**

J.P. Scott, boy's lacrosse and Julie Lim, girl's lacrosse.

- **Educator Receives National Award for Research**

The Engineering and Technology Education Division (eTED) of the Association for Career and Technical Education selected engineering and technology teacher Larry Singleton as the 2015 eTED Outstanding Research award winner for his research paper, "Pairing Students in CAD Training to Improve Spatial Visualization Ability." Each year eTED recognizes the top two non-funded outstanding research papers at the professional level related to grades K-12, and/or the university/college level, with one being selected as the overall top winner.

- **Soccer Team Receives National Honor for Academic Excellence**

The McIntosh High boy's soccer team earned the National Soccer Coaches of America High School Team Academic Award with their combined GPA of 3.53. The team has received the award a total of 14 years.

Kedron Elementary

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a bronze award in greatest gains and a platinum award in highest performing based on CCRPI scores. Among just 46 in 12 districts that received awards in both categories.

J.C. Booth Middle

- **Greatest Gains and Highest Performance Awards**

The Governor's Office of Student Achievement awarded the school a silver award in the highest performing category based on CCRPI scores. A total of 106 schools across 15 districts earned highest performing awards.

- **2016 Griffin RESA Middle School Math Contest**

Placed first in Division III, larger schools.

- **First Georgia Robotics Team to Win the FLL U.S. Open**

The "World Class Warriors" robotics team of seventh and eighth graders made history by winning the FIRST Lego League U.S. Open competition and becoming the first from Georgia to do so. The team is two years old.