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Lowndes County Schools
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education

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"What I am to be, I am becoming"

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CTAE Month

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During the month of February the Lowndes County School CTAE Programs recognized National CTAE Month with multiple activities, events, and recognitions. These included CTSO groups providing meals for the school staff, selection and recognition of Mr. and Miss CTAE, recognition of CTSO State and National Officers, CTAE display case at the Board Office and many other activities to educate and share the great things happening in CTAE.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WEEK



Mr. John Newton is the current CTAE Director and Supervisor as part of his Assistant Principal's duties at Lowndes High School. During this first year, Mr. Newton has done an outstanding job in his new role and gives a great deal of support to all of his CTAE Teachers. The CTAE Teachers recognized Mr. Newton each day during Assistant Principal's week with various surprise gifts. The CTAE Department would like to say, "Thanks for a job well done."

LOWNDES COUNTY TSA WINS BIG AT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



Lowndes County Schools recently attended the 55th Annual Georgia TSA State Leadership Conference in Athens, Georgia. Here, they competed against over 2,000 members in over 70 competitive events.

Lowndes High School placed fourth overall in the state, with 16 top-ten wins. Paige Pickett kicked off our conference by singing the National Anthem during opening ceremonies. TSA State President, Trevor Terry and State Sergeant at Arms, Preston Crawford finished their term as state officers, but continuing the long Lowndes tradition of outstanding State and National Officers will be Tate Green. After running a successful campaign at State Conference, Tate will serve as the 2017-2018 State Treasurer. Lowndes High took home three first place trophies in Digital Video (Trevor Terry and Ethan Wetherington), Extemporaneous Speech (Jack Crawford) and Outstanding Student (Jack Crawford). The other 16 top ten wins consisted of our team: Trevor Terry, Jack Crawford, Preston Crawford, Ethan Wetherington, Mason Sterling, Aaron Cowger, Jeremy Craven, Reilly Lennon, Christopher Bellflowers, Liam Wetherington, Tate Green, Wesley Smith, Kassie Sirmans, Gavin McGuire, Sarah Cole, Jacob Fiveash, Kathryn Crawford, Jake Demersseman, Ebony Williams, Bryce Herb, Garrett Garland, Courtney Raymond, Juliet Barrera and Paige Pickett. The Lowndes VEX Robotics team made finals, but unfortunately were eliminated in the first round.

The three middle school chapters combined to win 36 top three trophies and 47 additional top ten finishes. The middle schools also captured three of the top six Outstanding Chapter Awards. It is quite an accomplishment to have three chapters from one county finish in the top six. No other school system in Georgia can make that claim.



Hahira Middle School walked away from the conference with the Overall Most Outstanding Middle School Chapter Award. This award is earned by the chapter receiving the most team points accumulated from placing in the top ten in each competitive event. Students from Hahira Middle comprising this State Championship Team included : Isabel Autrey, Braedon Hodges, Alana Lund, Amelia Music, Daycee Panter, Lyla Ruff, Abby Tindall, Sydney Corbett, Molly Davis, Sam Denly, Dominic Ditomasso, Lauren Folsom, Preston Hart, Jon Liu, Hank Peagler, Zayne Ridge, Ruby Ruff, Mason Steel, Connor Stokes, Cameron White, Connor Chancy, Isaiah Templin, Brayden Whidden and Maddox Whidden.



Pine Grove Middle captured the third place Most Outstanding Chapter Award by winning "8" Top 3 trophies and "22" Top 10 awards. The Pine Grove team includes: Tyler Holley, Nathan Faircloth, Emma Davis, Phillip Wilder, John Quinn, Noah White, Meghan Lederer, Antonio Delvecchio, Jacob Zeigler, Will Hamlin, Ben Khuu, Darrion Smallwood, Jayden Tabisula, Drew Faircloth and David Thompson.

Lowndes Middle had a great conference with an outstanding chapter and strong team that included: Savannah Pannell, Dalan Kirkland, Greyson Peek, Ava-Grace Flynn, Cayden Avera, Christopher Youmans, Kate Lankford, Lexie Lewis, Lauren Varnadore, Katie Garner, Daniel Peterson, Tanner Parks, Carlie Kirkland, Ty Parks, Nealy Hires, Caden Trees, McCaig Pruitt, Brynn Wacter. Advisor Christy Craven was awarded the Tommy Pitchford Inspirational Teacher Award for middle school.



Now more than ever, youth organizations like the Technology Student Association are vital for preparing students for the future. Advisors, Cammie Lund (LHS), Matt North (LHS), Greg Terry (HMS), Curt Johnson (PGM), and Christy Craven (LMS) are proud to be a part of providing STEM opportunities through GA TSA for these bright young minds.

SPACE VIKINGS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

On March 1st the StellarXplorers National Youth Space Competition program office announced that the Lowndes High School “Space Vikings” team were among the finalists of the 2017 competition. This is a great accomplishment for the team composed of Gabriel Ellwood (Team Captain), Sierra Dickinson, Ryan VanNortwick, Steven Kitchen, Nathan Canada-Villar, and Matthew Stokes.

This is the first time that Lowndes High School has participated in the StellarXplorers competition, and the team has gone through various practice and qualification rounds to get to the finals. In each of the previous rounds the team had a six hour window to solve an astrodynamics problem relating to satellite orbits, payload selection and design, and launch vehicle planning, as well as complete an academic quiz relating to space exploration.

The Space Vikings are among ten national and international teams invited to the all-expense-paid trip to the finals in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from 5 to 9 April. The team will also have the opportunity to tour the US Air Force Academy, the United Launch Alliance headquarters and attend the 33rd Space Symposium.



The LHS StellarXplorers “Space Vikings”. Left to right: Matthew Stokes, Steven Kitchen, Sierra Dickinson, Gabriel Ellwood, Nathan Canada-Villar, Ryan VanNortwick.

LHS STUDENTS EXCEL IN NATIONAL SPACE CHALLENGE



A team of local students from Lowndes High School was among a select group of teams nationwide and internationally to participate in the third StellarXplorers National High School Space Competition Finals. The Lowndes High Air Force Junior ROTC “Space Vikings” team placed 4th overall after competing in the finals against the top 10 out of the 131 teams admitted to this demanding competition. Early competition activities took place locally including: education and training to prepare the team, three practice rounds, and three online competition qualification rounds to identify the top teams for the finals. The finalists received an expense-paid trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado, from 5 to 9 April, for the Championship round, tour of the Space Foundation’s 33rd

Space Symposium, and Awards Dinner. The Space Vikings team was composed of Mr. Gabriel Ellwood (team captain), Ms. Sierra Dickinson, Mr. Ryan VanNortwick, Mr. Nathan Canada-Villar and Mr. Steven Kitchen.

During the practice, qualification and final rounds the students solved orbital dynamics problems, evaluated different satellite system component capabilities and combinations, determined optimal launch systems and launch locations, and considered financial budget constraints to meet very specific mission scenarios and criteria.

Created by the Air Force Association (AFA), StellarXplorers is designed to inspire and motivate high school students and their educators to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through a challenging, space system design competition. Building on AFA’s successful CyberPatriot National Cyber Education Program, StellarXplorers will make an additional and significant positive contribution to STEM education across the nation. The program is made possible through the support of the Air Force Research Laboratory STEM Outreach Office; Analytical Graphics, Inc.; Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.; OrbitalATK Inc.; and the Space Foundation.



Pine Grove Middle 2017 State FBLA Conference

We had a great day at the FBLA Middle Level State Conference in Perry, Ga on February 28, 2017.

Pine Grove Middle School brought home 9 top 10 awards with the following placing in the top 5 awards:

- Hannah Harnage 3rd place Business Computations
- Hannah Harnage 5th Place in Business Spelling
- Blake Robinson 5th place FBLA Concepts
- Alex Osborne 5th place in Social Media

Our Chapter was also awarded as a Middle Level Bronze Chapter of the Year.

Also, we are proud to keep the ML State President in our Lowndes County family. Blake Robinson is ending his term as the ML State President, but was glad to pass the title on to Lowndes Middle School candidate Blythe Lindsey- she will be the new 2017-2018 FBLA ML State President in the Fall. Way to go!



SKILLSUSA STATE COMPETITION

The LHS SkillsUSA team is overflowing with amazing students. This extremely talented team is lead by student President Avery Kolisz and faculty sponsors Marc McLain, Steven Cooper, Marilu Cantrell, Byron Ward and Anglia Webb-Crosby, Leader of SkillsUSA. Lowndes High was well represented at the SkillsUSA State Conference held in Atlanta on March 23, 24, and 25. Out of the ten events the Lowndes High School SkillsUSA team entered, this group brought home two gold medals and two silver medals. The events spanned a wide variety of skills from engineering and architecture to automotive, photography, advertising and masonry. The two gold medals were brought home by Avery Kolisz for Technical



Drawing and Brittany Williams for Promotional Graphics. Robbie Brown brought home a silver medal for Architectural Drawing as did the outstanding team of Gavin Clark, Alex Usic, and Hemang Patel for Mechanical Drafting Display. The other gifted competitors were Brandon Barker, Ryan Picciotti, and Cameron Grace - Architectural Display, Dakota Garcia - Job Skills Demonstration - Automotive, Joey Smith - Job Skills Demonstration - Automotive, Maggie Leddy - Photography, Hannah Smith - Pin Design, Nick Williams - Advertising Design, and Chris Williams - Masonry.

Lowndes High School is extremely proud of each and every one of our amazing and talented students.

VIKING FUTURES, a publication of the Lowndes County Schools Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs, is designed to inform parents, teachers, students, community leaders and administrators of current programs and events. The Lowndes County Career & Technical Educators see every student as "career bound" and aim at helping every student reach his or her fullest potential in life.