

**ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL**

...we strive for excellence in all things.

**Upcoming
Events!**

**Thanksgiving
Break**
Nov. 23rd-27th

**Visit from
Governor's Office**
Nov. 30th

**End of 1st
Semester**
Dec. 16th

Intersession
Dec. 17th-Jan.
4th

**First Day of 2nd
Semester**
Jan. 5th

**Early
Release for
Students**
Feb. 12th

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Greetings Royal Knights!

It's hard to believe we are in the second nine weeks of the 2015-2016 school year. The first nine weeks were filled with welcomes, quality instruction, and enlightening field trips. As the second term takes flight, quality instruction continues and we are eagerly awaiting results of the 2014-2015 Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMAS). We are also in full swing with our sports programs.

Thank you so much parents for entrusting your child/children to us. We are off to a productive year and we look forward to your continued support.

Rigor, Relevance, Relationships, and Results

Best Regards,

Dr. Shaw, Principal

2015 Washington Post, America's Most Challenging High Schools

2014 National Blue Ribbon School

2012 Georgia School of Excellence



Teacher of the Quarter: Mr. Spurley

Congratulations to Mr. Spurley, our teacher of the quarter. We also want to congratulate Mr. Spurley, as he will be presenting at the National Science Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Way to go!

6th Grade

The first nine weeks in 6th grade has been a period of great adjustment for our newest Royal Knights. Managing six classes, learning to use lockers, while adapting to the rigor of ESA has kept the 6th graders very busy.

In Language Arts, the first nine weeks have been geared towards acclimating the students to the concepts of time management, accountability, organization, and acceptable classroom decorum. In our classes, we have focused on sentences according to purpose and structure, context clues/vocabulary building, elements of literature/figurative language, mechanics of grammar, proofreading, and connotation/denotation. These skills concepts will continue into Term 2 where the primary focus will be on utilizing various test-taking strategies as we continue to cover the standards.

In 6th grade science, students have had the opportunity to explore astronomical concepts and can look forward to exploring geological concepts during the second term. Students have also had the opportunity to improve their writing skills by engaging in critical thinking exercises.

In Social Studies, students learned about economical systems, different types of governments, and geography. We also began our exploration of Europe.

Students were also very busy in 6th grade math calculating percentages, and interpreting and computing fractions. Students have learned how to fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide both decimals and whole numbers using standard algorithms for each operation. Students can look forward to evaluating expressions, equations, and inequalities as well as working with geometric figures during the second term.

7th Grade

The 7th grade team had a wonderful first nine weeks, and we are off to a stellar start for the second nine weeks. We are excited to embark on our first field trip on Wednesday, October 21st. We will be visiting the William Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum and are hoping to hear a first-hand account from a Holocaust survivor. This learning excursion is a follow-up to our Middle East unit of study in Mrs. Hooper's Social Studies class during the first nine weeks. In Mr. James' English/Language Arts class, scholars read *The Outsiders* and completed novel study notebooks as evidence of critical reading and understanding a plethora of ELA concepts. In Mrs. Sheffield's Math class, students developed a deeper understanding of statistics and various graphing techniques. In Mrs. Hutchins-Trapp's Life Science class, students have been studying ecology. Scholars have completed various virtual labs and attended virtual field trips, and are all working hard on research projects of their choice for the science fair.

8th Grade

8th Grade Scholars have gotten off to a grand start. Students have begun to tackle coordinate algebra with tenacity and enthusiasm. Mr. Smith is available for math tutorial every Thursday. In physical science, Mr. Hoang was very impressed with the creativity of the students as they constructed their rubber band cars. The cars were used to explore the properties of physical science. We began our study of Georgia by exploring the geography of the state. 8th grade scholars had the awesome opportunity to experience Georgia up close. We took our annual trip to the North Georgia Mountains, Dahlonega, and the University of Georgia in September. In spite of the rain, students were able to view amazing scenery, explore a real gold mine, and pan for gold. Academic advisors at University of Georgia shared information that is vital to our college bound Scholars regarding their academic averages, leadership in clubs and organizations, community service hours and participation. As we continue in our study of the great state of Georgia, opportunities will be presented for students to experience history as well.

We would like to congratulate Coach Dinkins on his new career path with Fulton County Government as a Trainer. In this new role, he provides presentations to over 5,000 county employees on various topics. Coach Dinkins was a valued team member to his peers and teammates, a superior teacher to his students (past and present), a respected coach to his athletes, and a treasured role model to all Elite scholars. Students will continue the work of rigorous learning in Language Arts with the skillful guidance of Mrs. Brenda Mallory (a superb, retired ESA teacher).

We would like to thank those students and parents who participated in the Krispy Kreme fundraiser. Profits will be recorded on each individual student's account of the money that they raised. That amount will be applied to payments for future field trips or activities for those students. The 8th grade team is currently planning additional field trips and enrichment activities for the remainder of the year. We will do our best to offer additional fundraising opportunities after the December break.

As always, we appreciate the support from parents and community members in all of our efforts. Great things are happening in 8th Grade at Elite.



University of Georgia College Tour



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

9th Grade

The 9th-grade teachers & students have continuously worked diligently in the efforts to create critical thinking and a rigorous learning environment. In AP World History, the student read *Guns, Germs & Steel* and *Genghis Khan*, the making of the modern world to satisfy the CCPS initiative for learning. In Honors Ninth Grade Literature, students looked at different authors' ideas about coming of age, identity, choices, and culture. *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles and *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros served as our overarching texts and many short stories, poems, and essays supplemented our study and discussions. Students wrote two essays—a theme analysis essay from *The House on Mango Street* and a compare/contrast essay from any two works read during the first nine weeks. Students strengthened their understanding of key literary elements, acquired vocabulary most used on the SAT, analyzed the author's purpose and format in many texts, and engaged in the writing process to strengthen their synthesis of the ideas conveyed in the texts read. We also started using parenthetical citations to cite the texts. In Analytical Geometry class, students are working on the exemplifying reasoning of circles and volumes. In Honors Biology, students have completed the ecology and working on critical thinking projects on Habitats and the Niches. The 9th Grade Team is truly empowering young learners and helping them become conscientious and globally competitive.

10th Grade

The 10th grade had a very busy first 9 week period. We went on two field trips during the first 9 weeks. More specifically, we visited Kennesaw State University with Mrs. Chandler, and Mr. Smith led a weekend Law Day field trip in which the students visited the Georgia Bar headquarters at the Justice Department. In science, the students worked on the “Tragedy of Commons” lab, as well as the “Cycles of Matter” and “Biomes” topics. Math saw the students working with binomials and polynomials, and World Literature introduced students to two classical dramas in *Antigone* and *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. Mr. LeBoeuf's students also got creative when they worked with narrative writing in the first unit.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

11th Grade

General News:

Juniors are off to a strong start in all their classes. They also had the chance to order Class of 2017 rings from Herff Jones in September. In the coming weeks, Mrs. Norris, the Junior Class Sponsor, will hold a parent meeting for Junior Class Parents about dues, upcoming events, and the Junior Class Trip.

Academic News:

AP English Language and Composition –

The last nine weeks in 11th AP ELA, students were focused on reading the novel, *The Alchemist*. We journeyed with the main character Santiago from Andalusia to Tarifa, to the Pyramids in Egypt where Santiago searched for his true love and his treasure. He encountered many individuals on his journey who helped him along the way, as well as obstacles that made him want to give up. Ms. Mabry, our student teacher conducted an activity called "Beat the Author" and had students speculate on a possible ending to the story. In the end, Santiago found his love in the Oasis in Egypt and his treasure was buried in his favorite spot under a sycamore tree in his home in Andalusia. Students also focused their ideas and writings on their analysis of the human condition, a person's locus of control, and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. We analyzed an excerpt from *The Life and Rise of Barack Obama*, selecting and reflecting on the rhetoric used by his contemporaries that helped or hurt Obama's rise to the presidency. One on one writing conferences were held with each student. Students completed literary term booklets to support their AP Language and Composition assessment. We are currently practicing for the Georgia Milestone Assessment. We analyzed the rubrics used to grade their Extended Constructed Writing Response. Students studied the Age of Enlightenment and Reason; analyzed Jonathon Swift's satire in *A Modest Proposal*; and this week we begin reading *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller before viewing a live performance at the Shakespeare Tavern in Atlanta on October 29th. After *The Crucible*, we will read excerpts of *Walden's Pond* and *Civil Disobedience*, discuss the Romantic Period, and begin the Research Paper.

AP US History–

The AP US History classes have jumped deep into the pool of US History. Since the course spans over 500 years of history, the content has been flying by. We have covered early colonization through the American Revolution and into the earliest years of America's experiences trying to be an independent nation. Historical reading and writing is key to success in AP US History, so students have been working on document analysis skills by reading excerpts of historical documents such as "A Model of Christian Charity", "Sinners in the Hands of An Angry God", "Common Sense", "The Declaration of Independence", "Washington's Farewell Address", etc. They have also been working on drawing evidence from documents to use in the writing process through writing Document Based Questions. In the next 9 weeks, students will receive information about National History Day and we will begin research on our National History Day Projects. By the end of the first semester, we will have studied content from the years of 1491 – 1877, which is pretty impressive for just one semester!

Honors Chemistry–

Students are beginning the fourth unit of the year (periodic table & elements). We have begun to read "The Disappearing Spoon". We read one chapter a week and are taking reading quizzes on Wednesdays.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

12th Grade

General News:

Seniors began the year with a pinning ceremony, where they received Senior Pins and sweaters. They also gave a Senior Class Pledge that read: "I am an Elite Scholars Academy senior. I represent the Class of 2016. I pledge to uphold the name and image of an Elite Scholars Academy Royal Knight. I will do so by striving for academic excellence, conducting myself with dignity and respecting others throughout the community. By accepting this pin with pride, I acknowledge and accept the roles and responsibilities of an Elite Scholars Academy senior." In September, they ordered caps and gowns and have begun to pay Senior dues for graduation and other activities. In the coming weeks, they will receive information about Junior/Senior prom and the Senior Class Trip. Prestige Portraits will be at school on November 16th to take formal senior portraits. Please insure that Mrs. Brakebill, Senior Class Sponsor, has updated contact information for all parents so that any updates can be received in a timely manner.

Academic News:

AP English Literature and Composition–

Seniors are up and running! Seniors started the school year working on Common College Board applications and essays. Students created their individual websites. Website projects will continue for the rest of the school year as part of the Senior Exit Portfolio. The portfolio will result in an exit interview for each student. An interview panel will be selected in May. Contents of student portfolios will include: Career Essay, College Essay and Resume, Social Issues Paper, a Social issues Documentary, an Introduction Video/ Power Point, and an Independent Study. Students started their social issues expository paper in September. The first draft of the paper is due November 6th. Students will create their social issues documentary from the contents of their social issues paper. Some of the topics selected: Human Trafficking, Medical Marijuana, Alcoholism, Step-siblings, Abortion, LGBT, Eco-terrorism, Athletes and Wealth, Anger and Violence, Police Brutality, Racism, Body Image and Weight, Urban Life, Mental Health to name a few. We are simultaneously reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, after exploring themes from *Beowulf* and *Gardner's Grendel* themes such as the human condition, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, patriarchal society, greed, violence, self-image, acceptance, power, and blood. We took a brief pause from some of the intense themes while reading Chaucer's history of *The Canterbury Tales* and students created their own comic strip versions of characters who traveled to Canterbury-which we aptly named The Tales of Canterbury. Students had fun with this assignment and their junior class peers are motivated to read *The Canterbury Tales* so that they too can create their comic strips. When we complete *Macbeth*, we will read *Othello*, another Shakespeare play, and then Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*.

AP Microeconomics–

Seniors have been working extremely hard in AP Microeconomics this semester. They have learned how to use charts and graphs to analyze the impact of events on the economy in numerous different scenarios. Currently, we are working on analyzing the pricing and production decisions of different firms as it relates to different market structures. Students created products and presented these products to class in a "Shark Tank". They also completed an online course in Financial Literacy and are now "EverFi Financial Literacy Program" Certified. In the coming weeks, we will turn our studies towards the actions the government takes to correct market failures. We will also complete a project in business investment and stocks. The students have truly stepped up to the plate as they have dived into learning all the difficult content and skills required for AP Microeconomics.

Honors Physics–

We are in the middle of learning about Newton's Laws. This unit will last for about 3 weeks. We have begun to read "Physics of the Future". We read one chapter a week and take reading quizzes on Fridays.

Counselors Corner: Middle School

July

6th, 7th, & 8th grade orientation

Parent University—Welcome to Elite

Advisor/Advisee—Study Skills 6th-12th grades

Needs Assessments—Teachers and students

August

Bullying- Classroom guidance 8th grade

Parent University—Bullying/Cyberbullying

Advisor/Advisee—Anger Management Making 6th -12th grades

September

Middle school counselor provided academic counseling with students struggling in one or more academic classes.

Advisor/Advisee—Test Anxiety 6th-12 grades

October/November-**Upcoming**

Advisor/Advisee—Character Counts/Self-Esteem 6th-12th grades

Internet Safety/Sexting—Classroom Guidance & Parent University

Sexting—Classroom Guidance 6th, 7th, & 8th grades

Red Ribbon Week—Students will take the pledge to remain drug and alcohol free. Students will also receive classroom guidance on the history of red ribbon week, along with the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

6th-12th grade.



Counselors Corner: High School

August:

SAT and ACT fee waivers were released along with SAT and ACT dates for the 2015-2016 school year

Individual meetings- 9th grade began and were completed

The following colleges/universities came for Senior College Visits: University of Alabama, Armstrong State University, Georgia State University, Spelman College, George Washington University, Auburn University

September:

Individual meetings- 10th grade began

Individual Senior Meetings with students with a 2.5 GPA and below

The following colleges/universities came for Senior College Visits: University of West Georgia

October:

PSAT – given October 1, 2015 to all 8-10th graders and a select number of 11th graders

Early Action Applications for University of Georgia due (we had 4 Seniors apply) Ini Dare is the 1st Senior to turn in an acceptance letter and she has been accepted to 3 schools thus far: Kennesaw State University, Columbus State University and University of West Georgia

Individual meetings- 10th grade were completed; 11th grade individual meetings began

Red Ribbon Week

The following colleges/universities came for Senior College Visits: University of Tennessee, Colorado State University, Berry College, Kennesaw State University, Georgia Perimeter College

Upcoming for HS Counseling Dep't (tentative):

SAT, ACT, MOWR (Move on When Ready), What's In It For Me?

Senior Individual Advisement Sessions (including parents)

GA College 411- 10th-12th Grades

Georgia Student Finance Parent University

Help! I Need to Apply to College- After-school guidance session

News from Connections

Art

We have been very busy these first 9 weeks in Middle School Art. 6th grade has started their art portfolios and have been focusing on their creative skills, drawing from observation and learning how to critique Art verbally and in written form. 7th and 8th grade are developing their Art History knowledge base. They have studied The Modern Masters Andy Warhol, Henri Matisse, and Kandinsky. They are now able to take great notes from presentations and write strong constructive response papers. Their drawing skills are getting stronger focusing on shade and shadow along with texture. We will continue to build on these skill sets for the next 9 weeks. We will be adding to our wonderful portfolios that will be going home at the end of 2 term.

High School art students will be volunteering at the Atlanta Arts Festival the weekend of October 24-25 at Piedmont Park.



Band/Orchestra

Beginning and Concert Orchestras

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

6:00 pm

Performing Arts Center

Beginning and Concert Bands

Thursday, December 3, 2015

6:00 pm

Performing Arts Center





Book Fair



Elite Scholars Academy will have a Book Fair

Nov. 9th-13th

in the media center.

An online book fair will run from

**Nov. 2nd-13th. See the ESA website for a link to
our book fair web page.**

Sports Corner

Basketball News

- JV and Varsity boys basketball tryouts will begin Mon. Oct 26th from 6-7:30pm. Tryouts will conclude Tues. Oct. 27th at 7:30pm.
- JV and Varsity girls basketball tryouts will begin on Mon. Oct 26th from 4:30-6pm. Tryouts will conclude Tues. Oct 27th at 6pm.
- Middle School girls basketball tryouts begin Wed. Oct 28th from 4:30-6pm. Tryouts will conclude Thurs. Oct 29th 6pm.
- Middle School boys basketball tryouts begin Wed. Oct 28th from 3:15-6pm. Tryouts will conclude Thurs. Oct 29th 4:30pm

Congratulations to the following seniors who are nominated for CCPS 2015-2016 Scholar Athletes:

- Adedotun Adebola-Wilson
- Alexis Cornelius
- Adrian King
- Quang Kieu
- Edrei Yates

Congratulations to Ranyla Griggs, 7th grade, who was on the Clayton County Middle School North Allstar Team for volleyball. She was named the most valuable player.

More information on upcoming games and events can be found on the ESA Athletics page on the website.

Students of the Quarter



Nicolle Chavez-Ramirez

6th



Cardell Perry



Imani Bell

7th



Denver Wilder



Moriah Milner

8th



Jabari Courtney

Students of the Quarter



Martez Andrews

9th



Ramatulai Jagne



Rodney Guillaume

10th



Thao-mi Nguyen



Willis Taylor

11th



Shamyra Thomas



Luke Osuagwu

12th



Ndiya Onuoha