



Petersburg City
Public Schools

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Two Petersburg High School students made history with VHSL Class 3 Forensics State Championship wins

Petersburg, VA – On Saturday, March 25th, two students, Miangel Brown and Taylor Thomas, from Petersburg High, competed in the VSHL Class 3 State tournament and won. Miangel Brown won the VHSL Class 3 State Championship in Serious Dramatic Interpretation and Taylor Thomas finished in 3rd Place in Poetry. This was the first time in Petersburg High School history that Forensics team has not only placed but won the championship.

“This whole season has been crazy! I learned a lot, but one thing I realized is that I really like doing this. Forensics is amazing. I honestly did not know what to expect at the State tournament. It took me through a wave of emotions the whole day and especially at the awards ceremony. But the end result was electrifying,” said State Champion, Miangel Brown. “I climbed my way through the ranks this entire year, so to see myself actually winning and taking home the State Championship overall in my class and category was so worth it. We worked hard, always practicing and reading our critiques, trying to always do better than the last time. I guess all that hard work paid off and for real, winning the State Championship felt right!”

“Honestly, my teammates, going through this whole process together is what kept me calm, cool, and collected. Even though we compete individually, we are very supportive of each other. Just the fact of going to States and coming in the Top 3 in the State is amazing for my first year of even doing Forensics,” said Taylor Thomas, 3rd place winner in poetry. “When I first started, it was a work in progress. I started from the bottom and worked my way to 3rd place in

the whole State. That is a win for me! The feeling of that was amazing and wonderful. Actually participating at the State tournament was scary yet at the same time joyful! I loved it.”

“This has been an amazing year with these young ladies. They have all worked hard in selecting their pieces and perfecting them. I have watched how each of them have grown over the season. I am so proud of how they cheered for each other and encouraged each other and celebrated each other. Public speaking is a legitimate fear many people and these young ladies showed how public speaking can pay off for you,” said Head Coach, Terri Smith. “Saturday was stressful for them but they’ve learned how to sit back, relax, take a breath and “do your thang!” They have also learned that they have powerful voices, immense talent, and unshakeable strength, they just need to use it to their advantage. They both did and it resulted in 1st place and 3rd place wins! Petersburg High School made history Saturday because this is our first win EVER in Forensics! But it will not be our last. Taylor is a freshman and Miangel is a sophomore. And they have promised that they are in this for the long haul! I am a very proud coach! Go Wave!”

We want to thank the community for the continued support of our students throughout the entire season. We look forward to next season. Please feel free to call the Petersburg School Board office at (804) 732-0510 if you have any questions or concerns.



Miangel Brown, left and Taylor Thomas, right