

North, South, East and West and all points in between – Georgia’s public schools are doing great things. School districts across the state submitted the following “good news” items for **June 2010**. [Click on the school system name below](#) (*in alphabetical order*) to go to [their website](#) and learn more.

[Clarke County Schools:](#)

- Clarke Central High School student Carmina Escalante was awarded a National History Day in Georgia title. She will compete in the national competition at the University of Maryland in College Park. In addition, she was recently named the Janus Research Group’s Award for Best State Entry in Military History.
- Two students from Hilsman Middle School – Sean Zhang and Timmy Huang – were recognized for their accomplishments with regard to the Duke University Talent Identification Program.
- Three Clarke County students recently won regional honors in the Young Georgia Authors Competition – Tillman Surratt, kindergarten (Cleveland Road Elementary School), Cleo Weinmeister, 1st grade (Cleveland Road Elementary School) and Aaron Holmes, 7th grade (Clarke Middle School).

[Cobb County Schools:](#)

- According to a nationwide survey by the NAMM Foundation and the American Music Conference, the Cobb County School District is among the 174 ‘Best Communities for Music Education America!’ The districts were measured across curricular and programmatic criteria as well as public support of their music programs. Cobb is one of just three school systems in Georgia to receive this designation.
- Before the school year ended, 846 volunteers spent their Saturday at Harrison High School’s fifth Annual Community Service Day! Harrison students, teachers, coaches and parents helped out at 34 local venues, from retirement homes to local elementary schools to a mission/food pantry. While students receive valuable community service hours for college applications, they also realize the gift of giving back.
- Five Cobb County teachers have earned Master Teacher Certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission! Congratulations to Cynthia L. Burkett of Clay Elementary, Geoffrey Miles Thoroughman of Kemp Elementary, Ilene Sue Smith of Tritt Elementary, Christ Canter of Pope High and Robbin Hill of Lovinggood Middle, who each met the criteria for Master Teacher certification.
- The Kell High School Wind Symphony has been invited to perform at the 64th annual Midwest Clinic, the largest instrumental music education conference in the world! The ensemble will travel to Chicago, IL in December for the event, attended by more than 15,000 music educators, students and professionals from 30 countries. The Kell Wind Symphony was among just 40 performing groups selected from nearly 200 applicant ensembles! The symphony is directed by David McGrath.
- Pebblebrook High School Class of 2010 graduate Chandler Converse has been awarded a leading role in the national professional theatre tour of Rogers and Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music.” She will play Louisa Von Trapp in the upcoming Theater of the Stars production.
- Sophie Polakowski, sophomore in the International Baccalaureate program at Campbell High School, was presented with the Junior League of Cobb-Marietta “Janet J. Street Youth Philanthropy Award” at the organization’s annual dinner May 6. The award recognizes one young woman in the Cobb-Marietta community for exceptional service to the community in making a difference in the lives of others.

DeKalb County Schools:

- Thousands of pounds of electronic equipment were collected during the second annual Electronics Recycling Event sponsored by the Smoke Rise Elementary School Environmental Club. The event, hosted on the first weekend in May, was held in conjunction with the Smokerise Earth Day Festival.
- The DeKalb County Council of PTAs honored 125 students at their annual 'Reflections' reception. The students, ranging from Pre-K to 12th grade were recognized for their work in the performing and visual arts.
- Twelve lucky Knollwood Elementary School students recently received brand new bicycles thanks to the community service efforts of Kaiser Permanente. Select students were chosen to participate in a special drawing for which they were eligible based on their achievements throughout the school year.
- In early May, a group of students from Champion Theme Middle School's chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) had an opportunity to learn about local government firsthand when they spent the day shadowing officials from the City of Stone Mountain. The students spent May 4 with city employees including Mayor Patricia Wheeler at City Hall and learned what it takes to keep a small city running smoothly.
- Chamblee Middle School celebrated Earth Day with a full slate of guests and activities. The school used the event to promote going green, recycling and saving the planet. Local dignitaries were on hand as well as earth-friendly vendors to educate students about the value of living a "green" lifestyle.
- DeKalb students are getting active! This year DeKalb County students became more engaged in physical activity through the *Hoop Atlanta Bounce Back Program*. DeKalb Schools partnered with Converse and the Health Education and Communication Center of Atlanta (HECA) to offer a Speed Throw competition for all interested middle and high school students. The competition was held in May at Stone Mountain Middle School.
- Fourth-grader Nina Grant's design was selected as the winner of this year's DeKalb Public Works t-shirt design contest. She earned her school, Shadow Rock Elementary, the right to host the big event that caps Public Works Week in DeKalb County. Public Works Department employees spent the morning at the school and hosted a cookout for the students. On display were vehicles and equipment that are used to keep the county maintained and protected.
- The traditional Mexican celebration of 'Cinco de Mayo' gave Avondale Elementary School students a chance to spend the day learning about Latin-American culture as they played games, made Mexican beads and masks and, of course, took a turn at the piñata.
- Avondale High School brought back an age-old tradition this spring with the introduction of the AHS Debutante Cotillion. Twenty-five young ladies ranging from freshmen to seniors were presented to their parents, society and peers. In order to appear in the cotillion, the girls were required to attend seven weeks of classes. The weekly courses dealt with subjects such as peer pressure and bullying. The girls also participated in community service activities to round out their cotillion experience and prepare for the step into adulthood.
- The DeKalb County Public Library Youth Services staff, DeKalb County School System, and the City Schools of Decatur's teacher-librarians are encouraging children and teens to read over the summer by participating in the Vacation Reading Program. To promote the free reading program sponsored by DeKalb County Public Library, the library system's Youth Services staff visited schools to encourage students to sign up. The program provides a special opportunity for children and teens to maintain or increase their reading skills over the summer and is open to children of all ages.
- U.S. Olympic Gold medal-winning bobsledder Steve Mesler developed a relationship with the third grade students at Cary Reynolds Elementary School over the winter when he communicated with them over Skype from the Olympic Village during the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver. He visited the school in May to keep a promise he made to them during the Olympics, that if he won, he would show them the gold medal in person! He shared his experiences with the students and encouraged them to always keep trying their best.

- Over 50 volunteers from the business community gathered at Salem Middle School on May 11 for Junior Achievement (JA) Day to donate their time and energy to give students a look at what their futures might hold. The volunteers came from several local businesses to teach classes to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

Fulton County Schools:

- Kenny Moss, a special needs bus driver, won the state's School Bus Road-e-o, held this year in Warner Robins. He won Fulton's championship in order to advance to the state finals. A driver since 2003, Moss was inspired to join the profession after riding the bus with his mother, a driver from his kindergarten through middle school years. He is a third generation driver.
- Fulton County's Ridgeview Charter School and Johns Creek High School were recognized recently for their architectural design in *Learning by Design* magazine, a publication of Stratton Publishing & Marketing and the National School Boards Association. The magazine recognizes the nation's preeminent architectural firms by highlighting outstanding pre-K to 12 and college/university projects.

Green County Schools:

- Rodney Alexander, a senior at Greene County High School, has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar for 2010. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was established in 1999 from a grant provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the program is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students by reducing financial barriers for minority students with high academic and leadership promise. Rodney plans to attend Emory University in the fall.
- Greensboro Elementary School was one of 35 schools from 19 school systems across the state designated as a 2010 "No Excuses" School by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. The selection of No Excuses schools is based on the Foundation's 2010 Report Card for Parents.
- Union Point Elementary School physical education teacher Lisa Brown was one of three teachers from across the state awarded the HealthMPowers Champion Award by HealthMPowers, a nonprofit, Atlanta-based program designed to provide students, school staff and families with information, skills, resources and motivation necessary to take responsibility for their own health.
- Greene County High School Healthcare Science Technology Education program received industry recertification on May 4. Only programs that have successfully undergone rigorous reviews by business and industry (health care) are recognized with this distinction.
- Rotonya Rhodes, an economics teacher at Greene County High School, was one of two finalists recognized by the Georgia Council on Economic Education for its Georgia Economics Teacher of the Year. In the four years Ms. Rhodes has been teaching at GCHS, she's brought the school's pass rate on the economics End-of-Course-Test up from under 30 percent to more than 80 percent passing last year. This previous spring semester, 100 percent of her students passed the 2010 EOCT, with 59 percent of the students scoring at the exceeding level. Ms. Rhodes received her recognition at the Council's annual meeting held May 13 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.
- Congratulations to Greene County High School Class of 2010. Graduation was held Friday, May 21.

Houston County Schools:

- Bonaire Middle's Technology Student Association competed in the Georgia TSA State Conference held in Athens. Eight Bonaire students competed against middle grade students from all over Georgia in 18 events, and all eight brought home at least one top-10 award. Our students won 10 awards and were finalists in eight other events, winning 18 awards.
- Dr. Zabrina Canady was named the Outstanding New Special Education Administrator of the Year by the Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education. Dr. Cannady was

honored in March at a conference in Athens.

- The Houston County Association for Gifted Children was named the Chapter of the Year by the Georgia Association for Gifted Children. Houston County and Robin Albertson, HCAGC president, were recognized at an awards ceremony.
- Perry High School's Literary Team won first place in the Region 1AAA competition held in March at Darton College in Albany. Every Perry High student and group that competed placed in their event, and three students qualified for State.
- Perry High's AFJROTC unit traveled to Forsyth to the Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area to compete in an orienteering meet. Perry's students brought home seven awards, to include first place in both the men and women's divisions.
- Headquarters U.S. Air Force JROTC announced that Perry High School's AFJROTC Cadet MSgt. Samantha Stewart has been selected to attend the Aerospace & Technology Honors Camp at the University of New Mexico July 10-15, 2010. "Sammi" is a junior. She joins an elite group that represents the top one-half percent of more than 11,000 AFJROTC cadets across the U.S.
- More than 600 middle and high school projects from Houston and Peach counties were entered into the Houston Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at the Museum of Aviation. Forty-two Houston County students received first-place awards and qualified to compete at state.
- Warner Robins Middle was notified by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) that the school has earned the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation. Warner Robins Middle counselors Dotheria Ford and Karen Smith will be honored this summer during a special ceremony to be held in Boston, Mass.

Lamar County Schools:

- On May 20th, we had our state facility inspection and report. The purpose of the visit is to make sure that we have adequate facilities for our students and our programming. We must also demonstrate reasonable care for those facilities and have an idea of where we might be headed in terms of upkeep and construction. The committee spent about 5 hours going over our paperwork, listening to presentations, and inspecting our buildings. They could not say enough nice things about how well our buildings are maintained and how welcoming the environments are – inside and out!
- Daniel Bartlett, a 7th grade student at Lamar County Middle School, recently competed in the Metro-South GLRS Math Project sponsored by Griffin RESA. Daniel was awarded a certificate and t-shirt in recognition of being 11th overall out of more than 1,000 students in the Griffin RESA district. He entered a competition using ***Tabula Digita DimensionM*** math video games.
- Ms. Vicki Mattox, 7th grade science teacher, provided marvelous leadership and was an instrumental part in the success of this year's *Pennies for Patients*. Lamar County Middle School helped raise \$1,025.85. As a result of Ms. Mattox's guidance, awareness about blood cancers was increased and funds went toward a cure for blood cancers. Her desire to teach children about the importance of helping others has given our school an invaluable lesson about good citizenship, philanthropy, and the importance of giving.
- The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) announced that Austin Ogletree, upcoming Junior at Lamar County High School has been selected for membership. The Society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. The announcement was made by NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes. Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, and other member-only resources.

[Marietta City Schools:](#)

- [Marietta Middle School](#) recently received the grand prize of \$2,500 for its exceptional performance and contribution to the Kroger Earning Plus Learning program, and [A.L. Burruss Elementary](#), [Marietta Center for Advanced Academics](#), and [West Side Elementary School](#) each received \$1,000 awards for their participation in the program. [More»](#)
- The Marietta City Schools [school nutrition department](#) has earned a 2010 Georgia USDA Best Practice Award from the Georgia Department of Education for the high percentage of students choosing school breakfast during school year 2009-2010.
- [Dunleith Elementary](#), [Marietta Center for Advanced Academics](#), [Marietta Sixth Grade Academy](#), [Marietta Middle School](#), and [Marietta High School](#) were recently named 2010 State Model PTA Winners by the Georgia Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
- [Sawyer Road Elementary](#) is one of seven schools selected for The Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPPE) 2010 annual Bus Trip Across Georgia. The event will be conducted Oct. 26 – 28. Schools selected as stops have a proven track record of academic excellence and sustained performance. This year's theme is "Greater Flexibility, Greater Focus on Results." [More»](#)
- [Marietta Center for Advanced Academics](#) (MCAA) third-graders will join Polk County students to participate in *Project OWL* (Online World of Learning). Using a \$72,817 grant from the U.S. Department of Education awarded to the Bagwell College of Education at Kennesaw State University (KSU), students in three Georgia schools, and a fourth elementary school in China, will produce a series of environmentally themed interactive simulations based on KSU Assistant Professor Doug Herrington's research using multi-user virtual environment technology in the classroom. [More»](#)

[Muscogee County Schools:](#)

- The 2010 AAASP Wheelchair JV Football State Champions are the Muscogee Lions. The Lions finished the regular season with a record of 5 wins and 1 loss. After winning the state semi-finals, they went on to win the state title in overtime.
- The 2010 MCSD Teacher of the Year is retired Master Sgt. Debra Everett who has been an Army JROTC instructor at Spencer High School since 2002. Ms. Everett is the first JROTC instructor to be honored with the TOY Award.
- The Muscogee County School District's Outstanding First Year Teacher Award Program recognizes the most outstanding first year teacher in the Muscogee County School District. The winner this year is Vanessa Caldwell, a second grade teacher at Reese Road Elementary.
- The Governor's Honors Programs provides the brightest students throughout Georgia an opportunity to receive instruction in a chosen field of study by exemplary teachers on a college campus. Muscogee County had 14 juniors and 3 sophomores designated as finalists and are invited to participate in the 2010 Governor's Program this summer at Valdosta State University.
- The Page One Awards honors the outstanding achievements by high school seniors. The 35th Annual Page One Awards sponsored by the Ledger-Enquirer was held May 11 in the Bill Heard Theatre at the River Center for the Performing Arts. Students were selected based on exemplary academic records and contributions to the school and the community. The following MCSD seniors were Page One First Place Winners:
 - Art: Laura Elizabeth Chapman, Hardaway High; Career Technology: Nicholas Harold Averett, Hardaway High; Citizenship: Corey Ray, Hardaway High; Drama: Crystal Hiwana Jackson, Shaw High; English-Literature: Ashley Elizabeth Lee, Hardaway;
 - General Scholarship: Elizabeth Kelley Thorne, Columbus High; Music: Zachary Allen Zabel, Northside High; and Social Science: Gayla Marnecia Jackson, Shaw High
- Three Jordan High School seniors earned presidential recognition for their dedication as community service volunteers. Each student received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

- Julian Plowden and Jasmine Alfred received a Gold medal for more than 250 hours of community service and Jacob Hopkins received a Bronze medal for 131 hours of community service at various organizations.
- The Kiwanis Club of Columbus initiated the T. Hiram Stanley Award program in 1979 as a way of recognizing and encouraging academic and overall excellence among promising middle school students in the Muscogee County School District. Anuragh Gudur, Blackmon Road Middle School student, was recognized as the top 8th grader in the district.
- For the fifth consecutive year, the staff of the Shaw High School's Newspaper the *Silver Star* won the State Community Service Award at the Georgia Scholastic Press Association Awards Ceremony.
- Latasha Neal, senior at Columbus High School, placed third in the nation in the *Online National Academic Decathlon* in Essay and Super Quiz. The CHS team was one of 16 teams competing nationally and Latasha was the highest scoring team member.
- The state math tournament is held each year on an invitation-only basis and is hosted by the Georgia Council for Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM). The Columbus High Math Team won 1st place for Division 3-A. This tournament is also held to select the top 45 math students across the state to compete in the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) competition which is a national math competition. Andrei Markov was selected for the third year as a member of the Georgia State Math Team to compete in the national ARML competition June 4 at UGA.
- National History Day Winners: The following students were winners at the Georgia National History Day competition held at Macon College on May 1 and advanced to the national competition at the University of Maryland in June.
 - Columbus High:
 - 1st Place: Asha Owens, 10th grade, Senior Division for Individual Documentary
 - 2nd Place: Emily Takagi, 10th grade, Senior Division for Historical Paper.
 - Northside High:
 - 2nd Place: Cassie Cooper: 10th grade, Carlie Cooper, 10th grade, Orin Lincoln, 10th grade, Kayla Parsons, 10th grade, Colton McKay, 11th grade, Senior Group Performance – Innovation in History
 - Richards Middle:
 - 1st Place: Lillian Chandler, 7th grade, for Tri-board Exhibits.
 - 2nd Place: Cooper White, 8th grade, and Davis Holder, 8th grade, for Tri-board Exhibits.
 - Midland Middle:
 - 1st Place Mary Hird, 6th grade, for "The Impact and Change of the Seeing Eye: An Innovation of Independence"
 - 2nd Place Kevin Applegate, 7th grade, for "Innovation and Impact of the Ironclads"

Rockdale County Schools:

- Conyers Middle School has been chosen to host an exclusive live downlink with astronauts while they are in flight to the International Space Station on July 21st. About 15 students will have the opportunity to ask questions of the astronauts on national television. Conyers Middle School is a NASA explorer school.

Savannah-Chatham County Schools:

- Malaysia Stevens, a third-grade student at Garrison Elementary School was named the Superintendent's Student of the Month for May 2010. She has worked aggressively to achieve "Honor Roll", the "E" in Conduct Award for each marking period, and the "Students Choice Award" twice this year. She also placed 3rd in the school-wide Science Fair.
- Mr. Wayne Dawson, the director of the Savannah Chatham Fair Housing Council and Art Garza, board member of the SCFH Council presented SCFHC Poster Awards to the 2010

poster contest winners. The theme for the 2010 contest was **“Fair Housing: It’s Not An Option; It’s the Law”**.

- 1st place - Greta Wood, 7th Grade, Coastal Middle School,
- 2nd place -T'Andre Turner, 7th Grade, W. Chatham Middle School
- 3rd place -Sabria Roberson, 8th Grade Shuman Middle School
- Awards – 1st place - laptop computer, 2nd place - \$100.00 and 3rd place - \$75.00
- DeRenne Middle School’s SECME team won the State Competition in the “Mousetrap Car Design.” DeRenne Middle School will represent the State of Georgia at the Nationals at Clemson June 26-29.
 - 1st Place- Makay Creech, Sarah Gronau, Peter Keevy
 - 2nd Place- Lamant Diach, Ian Goodman, William Zheng

Social Circle City Schools:

- As a full-time Dual Enrollment student, Social Circle’s Brooke Shannon has taken all of her high school classes at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) during her junior and senior year. As a result, Brooke received both her associate degree from GPC and her diploma from Social Circle High School during the month of May.
- Liz Paulos, Social Circle City Schools ESOL Teacher, was chosen to be the State of Georgia representative at the national conference in Washington, DC for review of the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) standards.
- Eve Seawright, Social Circle Primary School second grade teacher, was named a 2010 Master Teacher for the State of Georgia by the Professional Standards Commission.

Troup County Schools:

- Kim Burgess of Callaway Middle School received the Middle School Engineering and Technology Teacher Excellence Award from the Georgia Chapter of the International Technology Education Association.
- Troup County Comprehensive High School Cheerleaders have been named the 2010 Georgia Cheerleading Team of the Year by the Georgia Cheerleading Coaches Association based on grade point average, hundreds of hours of community and school service, and their competition record.
- Katie Willis, a third grade reading, math, and language arts teacher at Berta Weathersbee Elementary School was named the Troup County School System Teacher of the Year.
- Kallie Montgomery, a sophomore and cadet major in the JROTC program at Callaway High School, and Samantha Morris, a sophomore and cadet captain from Troup High School have been chosen to attend the Aerospace and Technology Honors Camp this summer. Their selection represents the top one half of one percent of over 110,000 Air Force JROTC cadets with only 432 chosen worldwide.
- Justin Morgan, a junior at Troup County Comprehensive High School was elected Executive Vice-President at the Georgia DECA State Career Development Conference in Atlanta.
- In only their second year of existence, the Troup County Comprehensive High School Robotics Team advanced all the way to State and Regional Competitions with the help of their sponsors, Emerson, WGAMP and the LaGrange – Troup County Chamber of Commerce. The team finished in 10th place for the Southeastern Region of the United States.
- The Ethel W. Kight Magnet School Math Team won first place in three out of three categories at the Columbus Math Competition sponsored by the Columbus Regional Math Collaborative where 20 teams competed.
- Four students and the Math Department Chair at LaGrange High School were selected to receive a free laptop computer each from Google in recognition of the school's commitment to promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum.
- The Long Cane Middle School 8th Grade Festival Chorus performed at the Southern Star Music Festival and received three straight "gold" or superior awards from the judges and the

overall highest score of any middle school chorus performing over the course of the two day festival earning them the Sweepstakes Award.

- LaGrange High School senior Sarah Dinardo won the top prize in the 2010 3rd District art contest for her piece titled "April." Sarah's art work, selected from among 75 entries from high schools across the 3rd District, will hang in the U.S. Capital for a full year.
- LaGrange High School junior Hyeon-Ji Kim was awarded the Best Show award for her artwork entitled "Look to the Light" at the 2010 Columbus State University Juried High School Competition.
- Three students from Troup County Schools were named regional winners of the Young Georgia Authors contest: Olivia Smith of Franklin Forest Elementary School won for the third grade. Emily Schoonover of Long Cane Elementary School won for the fifth grade. Rachel DeGennaro of LaGrange High School won for the eleventh grade.

Washington County Schools:

- Washington County Schools published their 3rd annual literary publication "Spilled Ink" featuring original work from 144 students from kindergarten through 12th grade. An authors' tea was held with students autographing each others' printed, bound books. All students in the system received a copy of the publication. The photograph features excited authors and artists from Ridge Road Primary School.
- Students from Mrs. Mathis' fifth grade Discovery classes at Ridge Road Elementary School in Sandersville participated in the Georgia Council on Economic Education's Stock Market Game and experienced resounding success. This year more than 700 schools participated, just over 9000 teams entered and almost 35,000 students were involved. Each team was allowed to invest \$100,000 and follow their portfolio growth based on real time markets. All eight Ridge Road Elementary School teams earned money this year, but one team earned over 8% in just 10 weeks, beating the growth of the S & P 500 by more than 4%. Considering that our country is still experiencing a recession, that's quite an accomplishment. Dakota Hodges, Ryan Sheppard and Jordan Davis celebrated at a luncheon in Atlanta May 4th to honor all regional winners. Kathy Cox praised the teams and Hannah Salwen, co-author of *The Power of Half*, was the guest speaker while students enjoyed a catered lunch at the Georgia Freight Depot.
- Seventh grader Will Coneway earned the Best Overall Project – 7th Grade at the region science fair in Athens. He also received the Naval Science Award and a \$1500 scholarship to present his project at I – Sweep 2010 Project Olympiad in Houston, Texas. Will is the son of Willie and Nicki Coneway.
- T.J. Elder Middle School eighth grader Ansley Taylor achieved a perfect score for her expository essay for the Georgia Writing Assessment. Other Washington County students who have achieved this outstanding feat in eighth grade include ninth grader Lalyric Harris and eleventh grader Corey Haynes. Ansley is the daughter of Otis and Mary Taylor of Tennille.
- The T.J. Elder Middle Schools bands competed in the Georgia Music Showcase Festivals at Six-Flags Over Georgia in May. Competing against several other middle school bands from Alabama, North and South Carolinas, and Georgia were the orchestra, advanced orchestra, and jazz ensemble. The TJEMS band took first place in the Junior High / Middle School Orchestra, second place in the Middle School Advanced Orchestra and first place in the Jazz Ensemble categories. This is the second year in a row that the Beginner Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble took 1st place. The Advanced Orchestra placed 4th out of six bands last year and this year they placed 2nd out of 8 bands. Mr. Luis Branch, Band Director, commented, "I am grateful to be blessed with fine musicians and hope they will continue their path to musicianship all the way through our high school program. I appreciate the band boosters for their support in making this trip possible."

- Washington County High School student C'Briana Brown is now a published author. Her poetry was published in *The Anthology of Young Poets* and our system publication *Spilled Ink*, has also been selected for publication in *A Celebration of Poets*, another young poets' anthology.
- The Georgia Career Student Association at Washington County High School attended the 40th Annual GCSA State Leadership Conference competition and earned recognition for 100% Coordinator and Chapter, GCSA Improvement Quest (Platinum Level), and GCSA 2009-2010 Statewide Campaign. The Chapter also received a Superior Rating and was ranked *Number One in the State!* GCSA is a cost-effective way to integrate academic and career technical programs - one that is not only fun and rewarding for student members, but one that gives back to the community in many ways. The mission of GCSA is to focus on helping students reach their full potential.