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*Houston County CTAE: Working to Produce High Achievement for All Through Continuous Growth*

## Houston College and Career Academy

Partnering for Progress: Exploring Advanced Manufacturing with Frito-Lay, Jack Link's, Central Georgia Technical College and the Houston County School District



Pictured above, left to right, are: Karl Diver, Jack Link's Plant Manager, Angie Gheesling, Executive Director, Development Authority of Houston County, and Robert Cortes, Jack Link's Plant Engineering Manager.

On December 5, 2024, Houston County School District recently hosted its first Advanced Manufacturing Day, where approximately 30 students from the five local high schools explored career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. The event aimed to increase awareness and engagement in this sector. Participants toured the Frito-Lay Perry plant, Central Georgia Technical College's skilled training facility at the Warner Robins campus and the Industrial Systems lab at Houston College and Career Academy.

Once the students arrived at Frito-Lay for the tour, they were greeted at the front entrance and taken to the PC team room. The visit kicked off with a short presentation about the site, tour etiquette, and career opportunities. The students were split into two groups. One group toured the Core Manufacturing area and warehouse, and the other group toured the Bakery Manufacturing area and warehouse. The Central Georgia Technical College Tours were guided by Mike Pace, the Dean of Aerospace, Trade and Industry.



Houston College and Career Academy



Veterans High



Northside High



Warner Robins High



Houston County High



Perry High

## Partnering for Progress: Exploring Advanced Manufacturing with Frito-Lay, Jack Link's, Central Georgia Technical College and the Houston County School District (continued)



**Pictured above, left to right, are: Tim Lord, Industrial Systems Instructor and Mike Pace, CGTC Dean of Aerospace, Trade and Industry speaking with the students.**

Following the tour, a panel discussion was held to deepen students' understanding of manufacturing careers. The panel, facilitated by Angie Gheesling, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Houston County, included industry leaders, Karl Diver and Robert Cortes from Jack Link's. The panelists shared insights on career pathways, job responsibilities, and the skills required for success in the advanced manufacturing field. Lunch was provided for students by the Development Authority.

Some student comments from the post-event survey were: "I didn't expect the factory to look like that.", "It was a great tour, and I learned a lot about the industrial manufacturing." and "Manufacturing jobs seem to be more worker friendly when it comes to the environment around them than I originally assumed." Because this event was great, the planning committee for this event are eager to plan next year's event.



**Pictured above are Karl Diver, Jack Link's Plant Manager, and Robert Cortes, Jack Link's Plant Engineering Manager.**



**Mike Pace, CGTC Dean of Aerospace, Trade and Industry, is pictured above speaking with students.**

Houston College and Career Academy is located at 1311 Corder Road in Warner Robins, Georgia. Dr. Sherry Johnson serves as Principal and Industrial Systems Instructor is Tim Lord.

## Safety First: Fire Prevention and Safety in Culinary Arts at HCCA

On September 20, 2024, Captain Kendrick of the Warner Robins Fire Department visited the Culinary Arts students, both returning and new, at Houston College and Career Academy to emphasize the vital importance of fire safety in the culinary industry. His presentation covered key topics, including the various types of fire extinguishers and their proper use. Captain Kendrick also explained how hood suppression systems work by using a video demonstration to enhance understanding, and provided detailed guidance on what to do in the event of a fire.

Addressing all three class blocks, Captain Kendrick shared his invaluable experience and practical knowledge. HCCA is incredibly thankful for his time and commitment to helping start the new year with a focus on safety in the kitchen. His insights will undoubtedly help create a secure environment for both returning and new culinary students as they embark on another year of culinary exploration.

Chef Suni Wilson serves as the Culinary Arts Instructor/FCCLA Adviser at HCCA.



## HCCA Fine Furniture and Cabinetmaking Students Win Big at Georgia National Fair

Students from HCCA Fine Furniture and Cabinetmaking Pathway brought home the Gold at the Georgia National Fair.

- Kaden Kim won 1<sup>st</sup> place for his Black Walnut and Maple Stool and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Wormy Maple Video Console Cabinet;
- Trista Swanner, pictured below, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for her Wormy Maple Vanity;
- Adrien Turner placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for his Cherry Desk and received an Honorable Mention with a Black Walnut Dining Table;
- Dani Williams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for his Wormy Maple Coffee Table;
- Reagan Landers placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for her Wormy Maple Bookcase; and
- Alivia Mickens won 1<sup>st</sup> place and an Award of Excellence for her Jack-o-Lantern Set.

Fine Furniture and Cabinetmaking Instructor/SkillsUSA Adviser at HCCA is Kristie Norris.

Adrien Turner Honorable Mention



Adrian Turner 3rd Place



Dani Williams 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Kaden Kim 2<sup>nd</sup> Place



Reagan Landers

Kaden Kim 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Trista Swanner 2nd Place



## Together We Thrive: HCCA FCCLA Culinary Arts Students' Collaborative Journey with Warner Robins Middle School FCCLA Students and Northside Elementary School



**Pictured at left are: David Sams, NES Principal; Laila Wilson, WRMS FCCLA VP of Community Services; Peyton Herrington and Annabella Trasmer, chapter members; Chef Suni Wilson, HCCA Culinary Arts Instructor and FCCLA Adviser.**

On December 12, 2024, Houston College and Career Academy (HCCA) FCCLA Culinary Arts students, along with Warner Robins Middle School (WRMS) FCCLA members, Laila Wilson, Vice President of Community Service; Annabella Trasmer, and Peyton Herrington, collaborated with Northside Elementary School's (NES) Principal, David Sams, for their Winter Festival. The challenge was to create a festive winter hands-on activity for his elementary students. Chef Wilson and WRMS FCCLA students helped NES students and their parents create adorable snowman pudding cups. The students were so excited and enthusiastic about creating their snowman.

Culinary students created 200 bags that consisted of vanilla pudding, cookies, marshmallows, and candy. Chef Wilson and WRMS FCCLA students demonstrated and helped elementary students and parents create their snowmen. There were around 100 students that attended the event.

Northside Elementary Principal, David Sams, is a supporter of the Culinary Arts program at HCCA and is dedicated to fostering connections between schools, showing his students different career opportunities, and educational opportunities.

Warner Robins Middle School students described this collaboration as an "amazing opportunity" and shared how much fun they had learning, growing, and working with such a diverse group of participants. They cannot wait to partner with culinary arts again for future projects. HCCA is continuously striving to find ways to build bridges between all different school levels to inspire students to dream big.

Chef Wilson serves as the HCCA Culinary Arts Instructor/FCCLA Adviser.

## HCCA Education As a Profession Students Visit the Board of Education

The HCCA Education As a Profession pathway students visited the Houston County Board of Education on January 8, 2025. These prospective teachers are in the first-year of the EAAP pathway, and they had their intern ID badges made in preparation for their one day per week spring internship. In addition, the students toured the Board of Education building, learned more about their school district, and heard words of encouragement from district leadership.



Erin Morton's 1<sup>st</sup> block students are pictured in the "old school room" at the Board of Education.



Erin Morton's 2<sup>nd</sup> block students are pictured in the "old school room" at the Board of Education.



EAAP students are pictured hearing from Superintendent, Dr. Mark Scott and Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Richard Rogers.



EAAP students are shown hearing from Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Lazunia Frierson.



EAAP students are shown hearing from Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Elgin Mayfield, about the teaching profession and the impact teachers have.

## HCCA Teaching As a Profession Students Hear from Houston County School District's Teacher of the Year

The HCCA Education As a Profession pathway students hosted Jade Thomas, Houston County School District's Teacher of the Year, as a guest speaker. Mrs. Thomas shared her own educational journey, discussed her philosophy of teaching, answered teaching related questions, led the students in an interactive lesson, and offered words of inspiration to the future teachers.

The Education As a Profession pathway gives high school students the opportunity to learn about the teaching field through classroom instruction and internships. Erin Morton is the Teaching As a Profession Instructor at HCCA.



Jade Thomas is pictured at left with first block students: Emarie Wright, Susanna Robinson, May Beltran, Herbert Omboto, Tessa Roddey, Michael Holloway, Jade Walker, Alyssa Alcindor, Ms. Jade Thomas, Lameshia Tarpley, Gracie Hankey, A'zyhia Davis, Zayla Turner, and Hannah Rose Wright.



Jade Thomas is pictured at right with second block students: Haylee Larson, Alana Paulicheck, Arya Shannon, Dallas Locke, Kyra Creason, Bree Nichols, Alyse Barron, Ms. Jade Thomas, Cam'Ra Sheard, Kailani Gorniak, Jocelyn Kio, Bri Locke, Kendra Bostick, Paige Thompson, Baylie McCullough, Makayla Barr, and Ryleigh Willis.

Jade Thomas is pictured at right as she discusses the teaching profession with first block students.



Pictured above brainstorming ideas with Jade Thomas, is Alyse Barron and Dallas Locke.



Jade Thomas is pictured discussing the teaching profession with second block students.

# Warner Robins High School

## WRHS AFJROTC Receives Donation Check



WRHS AFJROTC received a \$500 donation check from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Perry. Cadets pictured above, left to right, are: Karmen Rodriguez, Vicente Alonso, Zavion Jones, Hunter McGahee, Gabriel Brunskowski, Kalil Hern, Georgia Johnson, Chanor Knight, Natalie Shanks, Redjinie Blain, Emily Wilson, and Emery McGarity.

Warner Robins High School is located at 401 South Davis Drive in Warner Robins, Georgia. Dr. Brett Wallace serves as Principal.





## Perry High School

### PHS Student Receives Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Scholarship



Alex Megginson, Air Force Junior ROTC cadet at Perry High School, received a scholarship to attend an accredited aviation university participating in a private pilot license training program in the summer of 2025. He is pictured at left with Jay Wood, PHS Assistant Principal of Discipline/CTAE Supervisor.

Alex is one of only 194 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the world to receive the scholarship from Headquarters Air Force Junior ROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. 1,203 cadets applied for one of the 226 scholarships. There are more than 85,000 high school students enrolled in Air Force Junior ROTC at more than 830 high schools in the U.S and overseas. The scholarship covers transportation, room and board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a private pilot license. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$27,000.

The Flight Academy Scholarship Program is an Air Force level initiative in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage. The Flight Academy allows aspiring young aviators to get their Private Pilot's Certification, at no cost, during an eight-week summer course at partner universities. Those who participate in the program do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branch of service, nor does completing the program guarantee acceptance into one of the military's commissioning programs.

The mission of Air Force Junior ROTC is developing citizens of character.

Perry High School is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry, Georgia. Wesley "Del" Martin serves as Principal.



## Perry High FCCLA Serves the Community



Perry High FCCLA members collected over 2,000 macaroni and cheese boxes to contribute to the annual Perry Volunteer Outreach holiday food drive. Members also packed over 250 food boxes for local families in need during the holiday season. Each member worked at a station. The assembly line was fast and efficient and filled with the holiday spirit of giving. FCCLA partnered with local community leader, Larry Wood, who heads the local food ministry. This was a wonderful opportunity for members to serve the community that offers so much support for the organization.



Dallas Locke and Bella Newell are pictured at left with boxes to be filled.



Eleanor Sengenberger and Carly Ridings are shown above packing boxes.



Emelia Ellerbee and Chloe Oglesby are pictured above packing boxes.



## PHS FCCLA Christmas Party

The annual FCCLA Christmas party at Perry High School was filled with fun festivities and fellowship. Members brought in their favorite holiday food to share and a wrapped gift for the holiday gift exchange game. After enjoying some delicious food together, members drew numbers to participate in the gift exchange game where members were invited to take a gift from the table or steal a gift from another member. The game was so much fun. Members had lots of laughs and ended up with some pretty cool gifts. Finally, there was a tacky Christmas sweater contest where the officers decided on the winner during a holiday runway show. This was a wonderful holiday celebration for everyone in attendance.



Chapter President, Mary Carver  
and Tacky Sweater Winner,  
Carly Ridings.



Tacky Sweater Contestant,  
Emmagrace Goodman.



Alyssa Butts



Jyran Stubbs and  
Marquita Jackson.



Johnathan McDonald  
and Ta'Narius Warren.

# Northside Middle School

## NMS FFA Receives Flint Energies Grant



Northside Middle School FFA President, Kassidy Zellner, and Ag Teacher, Ivey Cook, are pictured as they receive the grant from Flint Energies Cooperative at the January Board Meeting in Reynolds, Georgia.

Northside Middle School Agricultural Education Program received a \$5,000 grant from Flint Energies Cooperative to be used to expand the shared livestock facility between Northside High School and Northside Middle School. Ivey Cook is the Agricultural Education Teacher at Northside Middle School.

With the humbling honor of being a recipient of this grant, a detailed application was submitted and the selected finalists gave a presentation of the program to the Flint Energies Board of Directors. Northside Middle FFA was one of the chosen candidates. They plan to use the funds to install new pens in the market hog barn to meet the growing numbers of swine exhibitors. Cook stated, "Our market swine projects are at an all time high right now. Currently, we have 40 pigs in the barn and every year we continue to grow in our livestock which provides unique opportunities for our students."

Northside Middle School is located at 500 Johnson Road in Warner Robins, Georgia. Dr. Alma Mundy serves as Principal.



Feagin Mill  
Middle



Huntington  
Middle



Mossy Creek  
Middle



Northside  
Middle



Perry  
Middle



Thomson  
Middle



Warner Robins  
Middle



Bonaire  
Middle

# Warner Robins Middle School

## WRMS FFA Earns Awards

The Warner Robins Middle FFA competed at the first livestock show of the season for the market hog show team at the Georgia Junior Livestock Foundation Exposition. Team Members Include: Gracie Plank, Cayden Bowman, Cadence McDaniel, Haliegh Robinson, Coryn Adriance, Elle Hayes and Hala Hovezak. A special congratulations to Hala Hovezak who won Grand Champion AOB.



Warner Robins Middle School is located at 425 Mary Lane in Warner Robins, Georgia. Steven Ruzic serves as Principal.



## WRMS FFA Competes in Area Floriculture Contest



Warner Robins Middle School FFA competed in the Area Floriculture Contest and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 28 middle and high schools. They will advance to the State Championship on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Team members include: Hala Hovezak, Mati Watkins, Makayla Booker, and Tessa Walters.



## Houston County Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Staff

### High School CTAE Supervisors



Sherry Johnson



Jay Wood



Karma Hayes



Dana Morris



Heather Burley



Robert Walker

### Middle School CTAE Contacts



Fred Thomas



William Basby



Ciara Northern



Monique Lester/  
Fred Thomas



Torris Woolfolk



Candida Fielding



Frank Kenney



Shenequia Jones

# Houston County Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education Staff



**Kim Gunn**  
Central GA Technical College,  
Director of High School Initiatives



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The *Wall of Fame*, is Houston County's monthly Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education newsletter. This is our effort to keep you informed of the many positive activities going on in the Career, Technical, and Agricultural programs of Houston County. Complete details on these newsworthy topics may have already appeared in the local newspapers. The newsletter serves as a short recap of events.

The Houston County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, genetics, disability, or sex in its employment practices, student programs and dealings with the public. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. District does not discriminate on the 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations.