

Houston County High School CTAE Builds Better Leaders with Better Business Bureau

By: Jaidan Beal

1,032 Houston County High School Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) students – which included over 350 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) students, or Early Childhood Education (ECE) students - had the opportunity to engage in a presentation on business, finances, ethics, and more led by Jason Blankenship with the Better Business Bureau (BBB). This presentation was geared towards promoting the National Program, Financial Fitness, within Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

The purpose of the FCCLA Financial Fitness Program is to involve youth in teaching how to make, save, and spend money wisely. Through this FCCLA National Program, students become informed and inspired to sharpen their skills in money management, consumerism, and financial planning so that they know how to manage their money and build better lives as adults to help strengthen families, communities, and the worldwide economy.

Jason Blankenship led a dynamic presentation that perfectly aligned with key topics in the FCCLA Financial Fitness Program, helping students consider spending, saving, and most importantly, protecting their money and making



CTAE students at HCHS were engaged in Mr. Blankenship's presentation, learning important information to better their lives as future consumers. Students benefitted from skills and knowledge important for employability

wise financial purposes. Jason included topics ranging from financial literacy, ethical behaviors, hurricane scams, social media frauds, identity theft, car purchasing, and more. Students gained vital information from the BBB leader and speaker in a fun, yet informative way. Students came away from this presentation with knowledge that is vital for personal growth and development for career and adult life.

Madison Scarborough, a Family and Consumer Sciences student at HCHS said, "Mr. Blankenship's presentation had me thinking about his remarks even after the presentation was over. I had the opportunity to listen to his presentation twice through my FACS and ECE classes and the presentation was different each time. I learned a lot of information about honesty, ethical actions, and purchasing practices from Mr. Blankenship that will help me to be

successful in my future as a consumer. His presentation was definitely interesting and informative, approaching business information with the Better Business Bureau in a fun way for students to better comprehend and connect with."

This presentation truly united students across CTAE pathways through a focus and lesson on employability skills that will help all students, regardless of their career pathways, become better consumers and leaders within their futures. This speaker particularly engaged FCCLA members through the Financial Fitness Program connection and helped them to advocate consumer knowledge with their peers around the school by sharing what they learned about consumer education topics through social media and classroom activities that followed the BBB presentation.



HCHS CTAE Students and Georgia FCCLA Vice President of Membership (Pictured Middle), Wahome Muriuki, interacted with Better Business Bureau guest speaker, Jason Blankenship, in an activity related to buying a car. Members benefitted by learning about financial literacy, car buying, social media frauds, identity theft, ethics, and more.

Chapter Activities



Clarkston High School FCCLA held an Officer training with the Georgia FCCLA Region 5 Officer, and the First Vice President.



Dodge County FCCLA participated in DCHS Homecoming parade with children enrolled in the school's Early Childhood Education program.



Screven County FCCLA hosted a Pizza Party and Paint War for new members!



Northwest Whitfield High School hosted the Region 1 Chapter Officer Training presented by Georgia FCCLA's Vice President of Public Relations, Kristen Hankins and Region 1 Officer, Amory Dowdy. 10 schools attended.



Southeast Whitfield FCCLA collected items to donate to the Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center; a center that offers a safe place for victims of family violence to stay. Pictured above are the items collected by the chapter.

Live Your Best Life



By: MiQuan Green
State President

Greetings! My name is MiQuan Green and I am your Georgia FCCLA State President, hailing from the beautiful city of Savannah, GA. I am currently a senior at H.V. Jenkins High School, where I serve as the Chief Editor of my school news station, and Senior Class Vice-President. I am also the owner of MGreen Productions Photography and Publishing, where I serve major businesses, events, and schools in Savannah and surrounding counties.

Frequently, I am asked, "MiQuan, how do you keep up with all your daily responsibilities?" Often, I ask myself the same question. However, I know that I must stay organized and motivated to keep up with my daily duties. As I wake up each morning, I tell myself "It's a new day and I'm living my best life!"

I challenge you all to live your best life. If you want to start your own business, start writing your business plan. If you are trying to get into a specific college, take a college tour and look up school requirements.

If you want to become a FCCLA State Officer, begin looking into the application process. The sky's the limit, and you can do it!

While you are on your journey to greatness, you will experience some bumps in the road. There have been many times I have been told no, or that I could not do something, but that did not stop me. It only motivated me to do better. Listed below are some tips that I believe will help you on the way to begin living your best life.

1) Eliminate Useless Habits: Take a moment to discuss your habits. Are you watching too much TV or spending too much time on social media? Once you begin letting go of habits that are not fundamental in life, then you may begin making progress in reaching your goals.

2) Surround yourself with people who make you feel good: If you associate with people who do not push you to do your best or who inspire you, then you may need to change to being with those people who will be more uplifting. Begin surrounding yourself with positive people that bring positive vibes!

3) Maintain a positive attitude: If you complain, criticize others, or maintain a negative attitude all of the time, things will seem as if they are at a standstill in your life. No matter what wrongs may go on in your life, shake it off, move on, and keep a smile on your face!

Incorporating these steps with determination will ensure that you are capable of reaching all the goals you have set.

Now is the time to start living your best life. My term as president is almost up, but throughout this year, I hope to help you take a leap of faith toward your next greatest challenge!

A Fresh Start

By: April Eubanks & Zoe Harris

Elbert County FCCLA has not only been focusing on membership recruitment but the quality of member involvement. We changed it up this year and have morning meetings and afternoon meetings in an effort to allow all members an opportunity to attend.

We recently had several members who volunteer to clean up a local park in conjunction with Keeping Elbert County Beautiful.

Members also designed a new t-shirt that we are all excited to rock during upcoming events. Members have been working on STAR events and fundraising.

We are prepping for a new fundraiser in which members will take orders for a pre-mixed dressing recipe. The recipe is one of our officer's grandmother's and will include ingredients from our own school nutrition program and Georgia Grown. The school year is well on its way and so is our local chapter.



Elbert County High School FCCLA clean up Veteran's park.

Middle School Chapters Highlights

Northside Middle Makes A Difference

By: Brenda Gutierrez

Northside Middle School FCCLA has been very active in their community with the losses that have taken place these past several months.

We live in a "football" community. Dylan Thomas, a football player from Pike County, was involved in a freak football accident and it rocked central Georgia. He lost his life at the age of 16 and this accident has opened our eyes to the dangers of a sport that many students love.

Our chapter immediately wanted to do something. All of the chapter members wrote a handwritten letter to Dylan's family. We understand we can't change anything the family is going through, but we wanted the Thomas family to know the community is there if they need any type of support.

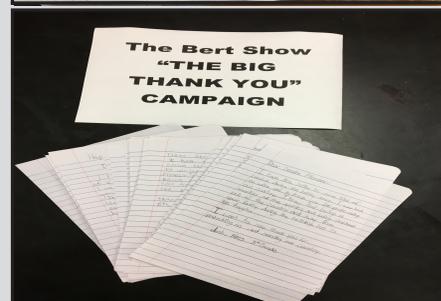
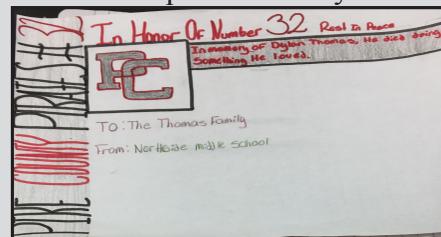
During our Fall Break this year, Hurricane Michael decided to put several states in a state of emergency. Our chapter made donations, in conjunction with our schools efforts, to support the victims of the hurricane. We provided supplies along with cash to help those in need.

This year we are teaming up with The Bert Show, a morning radio show on 95.1 for the "Big Thank You Campaign". Our FCCLA chapter is helping them reach their goal.

We are sending 500 handwritten letters for service member stationed out of the country thanking them for their service. Their goal is for each service member to receive a letter during the holiday season.

Our advisor lived in Germany and her husband served 24 years of Air Force military service. So not only is this important to our chapter, it is important for her family, and especially our Warner Robins community.

Many of our students at Northside Middle School are somehow connected to the military. We know that their service and sacrifice keeps our country safe.



Pictured above are letters from Northside Middle to Dylan Thomas' family and to The Big Thank You Campaign!

GOLD Training

By: Melanie Bratcher & Cadence Dewey

Seven Houston County's middle school chapters attended Goal Oriented Leadership Development (GOLD) at Camp John Hope on September 7.

GOLD teaches team building and leadership skills in an exciting and hands-on environment. The goal is to develop FCCLA chapters into a successful and effective team to increase chapter involvement, develop unity, build trust, improve communication, create a team environment and strengthen team concepts, and to develop confidence, leadership and cooperation.

Students participated in rock wall and low ropes courses. Perry High School's parliamentary procedure competition team demonstrated the proper procedures for conducting a business meeting.



Houston County FCCLA Middle School Chapters Attend GOLD Training at Camp John Hope.

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for FCCLA!

By: Katy Atkins

On September 27, North Oconee High School FCCLA joined their feeder school Malcom Bridge Middle in a mixer event to promote FCCLA. Nine North Oconee students accompanied over twenty middle school FCCLA students to encourage their continuation of FCCLA and FACS in high school.

The students enjoyed mingling over ice cream and other snacks while waiting for the meeting to officially start. To start the meeting off, the high schoolers introduced themselves by stating their name, their position in the chapter (member/officer), and their grade level.

The high schoolers then answered questions from the students and advisor such as "What is your favorite part of FCCLA?" After questions were answered, the high school students got to lead the middle schoolers in some fun

FCCLA cheers. After the cheers, the students bonded some more by playing "Heads-Up Seven-Up" until it was time to go.

The high schoolers loved being able to go meet some of the students that would be coming up into North Oconee next year, and the middle school students loved to see what FCCLA would be like in the coming years!



Apalachee FCCLA and School Garden Club Partnership

By: Brooke Lewis-Slamkova

Apalachee High School FCCLA has partnered with the school garden club to create a unique learning experience. They have planted nine beds of vegetables to be used in the food and nutrition classes and learned so much about food production.

There is no better teacher than small seeds and sunshine. The garden manager, Brittany Morales, has the whole school involved by running a google calendar for advisement classes to sign up to weed, plant, or harvest the crops.

The group is currently participating in the Kickin' it with Kale! Campaign through Georgia Organics by planting kale and using it in taste tests at our school this fall. The students are looking forward to sharing all their hard work at the upcoming Golden Radish Award Ceremony on October 22, 2018.



Pictured top left is Brittany Morales, school garden manager. Pictured top right is the first cabbage crops. Pictured below the Food, Nutrition and Wellness class and members of the AHS Garden Cats clear the last raised bed after summer break to make way for new crops.



Appling County FCCLA is super proud of our members for excelling in multiple school activities including cheerleading, football, and participating in the student section. Our members have so much school spirit! They are so active and productive! We love to support our FCCLA members in everything they do!



Breaking Barriers With Georgia FCCLA



By: Wahome Muriuki
Vice President of Membership

Immediately after the 2018 State Leadership Conference, I realized that my senior year would begin and end with Georgia FCCLA. I understood at that moment that, even though it would be my final year of high school, I have a final chance to soak up and reflect on as many opportunities and memories that FCCLA gives to its members.

So many of my incredible and unforgettable moments have happened since becoming apart of this organization. I have broken so many personal barriers, and I learned important lessons from going to conferences, competing in STAR events, and then becoming a State Officer.

It started by becoming a member in sixth grade and interacting in the chapter meetings. Being part of a family of individual leaders who are coming together for the first time taught me how to work well with a group in a way that we could be successful in whatever we strived for.

From creating blankets to having can food drives, giving service was a mission we were always working for and never giving up on. I have developed so many leadership skills that have helped me win the leadership award for my school twice. Having gone through middle school in FCCLA, it set in stone some of the main points that this organization promotes.

High school and FCCLA have been truly life-changing! It began with attending my first cluster meeting and seeing some of my chapter members compete in STAR events. It seemed so fun and interesting that I decided I was going to compete at Region. I competed in Early Childhood Education and that was the first time in my life I put to use the information taught in my experiences with FCCLA to win at something.

STAR Events are a vital way I learned how to speak in a professional manner and gave me the opportunity to showcase the skills I had gained through my Early Childhood Education class. Also, constantly having the opportunity to pack my bags and travel to see other parts of the country when going to these conferences has been so incredible. It allowed me to do two things I love.

Travel on trips with my chapter members and go attend conferences for the organization that has created some of the greatest memories of my life. Each of these memories taught me a new lesson and why FCCLA is the ULTIMATE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE!!

BHS Participates in Parade

By: Jennifer Wood

BHS FCCLA participated in the annual Buford Homecoming Parade. The BHS FCCLA chapter was sponsored by Rick Hendrick Chevrolet. BHS FCCLA currently has 80 members. Students wore their FCCLA t-shirts that they received for FREE for joining by September 1st!

BHS FCCLA served at the Good News at Noon Soup Kitchen on October 30 and went to the Civil Rights Museum on November 10. Members are excited about all the activities officers are planning for them this year.



Pictured above: Students are ready for the parade in our Denali provided by Rick Hendricks Chevrolet. Pictured below is Buford mascot, Wolfie, and Buford FCCLA!



Stockbridge High Embraces the Power of One

By: Chef Leigh Jackson

One of the most special things about FCCLA is that moment when students see real life change! Stockbridge High School fully embraces the wonderful National Programs and one of our favorites is POWER OF ONE. We'd like to share several of our amazing student stories with you in hope that you will be motivated to BELIVE IN YOURSELF too!

Alexis Young:

Since I can remember I've been a straight A student, always striving to better myself and others. I have been a part of FCCLA since my freshman year and I am now a senior. Recently, I was nominated for the Posse Scholarship, and this scholarship is all about leadership.

Being a part of FCCLA the past few years has definitely influenced me for the better.

I've learned a lot and I applied it when I went for my interview. I am now a Posse Semi-Finalist. I hope everyone gets as much as I did and more out of FCCLA. It's not just a club with trips- the rallies and conferences teach you real life lessons.

Macey Recor:

During her 8th grade year, Macey was diagnosed with kidney failure. For 5 months she was on dialysis, having her kidneys removed that Fall. On March 20, 2015 Macey received a new kidney from her dad!

Having a chronic medical condition has never slowed her down! The relationships she has formed in FCCLA have been a great comfort and support to Macey throughout her healing process. Today, Macey is healthy active and planning to graduate in May of 2019.

Haylee Davidson:

Between the ages of 8-9, Haylee found out that she had bone cancer in her leg. After many surgeries and subsequent follow up care, one would never know about the challenges she has faced.

Now a Sophomore in High School Haylee is flourishing.

FCCLA has been the perfect place for her considering she is planning to be a FACS teacher! Her kindness, gentleness and understanding nature draws people.

She has an innate ability to relate to everyone with humor and a genuine sweetness. Her leadership skills shine through brightly. She is Inspiring. Garrett Lathem:

I am able to catch and relocate alligators with my father in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. We relocate them to our family business called Shalotte River Swamp Park, which includes things like zip lines, boat tours, alligator shows, and a shop. The gators are from places where they can't be kept, are a nuisance, and or are a threat.

Sometimes dealing with animals are easier than dealing with humans. FCCLA has really brought me out of my shell, helped me make real friends and be a part of something bigger. I wouldn't trade it for anything!

Morgan Cagle:

Morgan began hunting with her dad and grandpa when she was just 5 years old. She can field dress animals and is very independent! FCCLA has been so good for her. Naturally shy, she has gained confidence and has been able to put her learned leadership skills to great use.

Morgan has emerged as a strong leader in her Chapter, ready and eager to do anything that needs to be done. Full of encouragement

and great ideas, Morgan is blossoming with FCCLA! Isabella Jackson:

When Bella was 7 or 8 she started tagging along with her mom who was an FCCLA Adviser. Exposed to leadership principles early and having the chance to cater with her Chef Mom, Isabella has always looked ahead to bigger opportunities in life.

At 14 she took and passed the entrance exam for the Dual Enrollment program and began college classes 3 months before her 15th birthday.

Recently, she obtained her first job at Southern Belle Farm and loves it! Isabella credits her exposure to FCCLA for her strong work ethic, ability to be flexible, and her concern for others.

Tae Stanley:

Having been in foster care since 2012, Tae has learned to be flexible, appreciative and to stay focused!

Many people think this is a bad thing but for Tae, it has worked out well. Now as a Senior graduating in December, FCCLA has really become a family to him.

The whole concept of FCCLA and the skills he has learned have enriched his life more than he can explain. He is ready to move forward and do great things!

Dodi Antonio:

The day Dodi was ordained as a minister changed his life because he had a greater way to inspire people and introduce troubled people to the Gospel.

FCCLA has given him leadership tools that he can use in all areas of his life.

"I am far from perfect- but I have confidence that I can lead others! For anyone that needs that support and reassurance, FCCLA is the perfect place to be!"

HCHS Attends Fall Leadership Conference

By: Elizabeth Snowden

On Thursday, September 13, 2018, the Haralson County School System supported students Elizabeth Southworth, Breana Ward, and Kara Ward in attending the annual Georgia Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Fall Leadership Conference at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington, Ga.

Their adviser and Culinary Arts Teacher, Lorri Ward, is starting a new FCCLA chapter at Haralson County High School (HCHS), so the information learned about FCCLA was very helpful.

While attending, students were encouraged to become better leaders through the conference theme for Georgia FCCLA: "Find Yourself." Related to this theme, the conference exposed students to a variety of activities such as guest speaker Heather Schultz's motivational speech that encouraged attendees to overcome struggles as she shared her life story.

Students left with the understanding that "failure is the key to SUCCESS." Elizabeth Southworth, an officer of HCHS FCCLA, stated "Fall Leadership Conference really gave us a chance to connect with others and build leadership skills. I personally had an amazing time connecting with others, building friendships, and strengthening my leadership skills. The world today has a lot of negativity, but meetings and rallies like this one can change the world. If we as young people could be more kind and positive, our generation could will the world."

FCCLA isn't only an organization, but it's a chance for members to change the world AND become a strong leader in their family, career, and community, as evidenced by this year's national theme for FCCLA: "Believe in Yourself". The message of the theme means that no matter what happens in life, and no matter what people tell you, just believe in yourself and be you.



HCHS FCCLA Officers at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center (from left to right): Breana Ward, Kara Ward, and Elizabeth Southworth.

TCHS FCCLA Accomplished NLC

By: Trevor Sconyers

Toombs County High School FCCLA traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the National Leadership Conference. For the third year in a row, Toombs County High School has advanced to the national level of competition for STAR Events.

This year, first time NLC attendees Trevor Sconyers and Addison Hall competed in the Entrepreneurship Senior category and received a gold medal along with an overall twelfth place finish in the nation.

We are so proud of their accomplishments and commitment to the TCHS FCCLA family. Also joining them at the conference is

state officer, Morgan Sager, where she got to experience multiple leadership sessions that advanced her knowledge of being a leader in FCCLA.

But, what would FCCLA be without it's supporters. Also attending NLC, were chapter officers, Tatyana Almazan and Carlie Morgan, there to support our outstanding STAR Event team and state officer.



NEC Elections



Georgia FCCLA also had two National Officers elected at the 2018 NLC. Congratulations to Avery Hurst- First Vice President and Julia Peake- Vice President of Finance! Georgia FCCLA is so proud of the both of you for representing us well!!

Letters from the State Executive Council

FCCLA Transformation



By: Morgan Sager
VP of Competitive Events

For the past four years, FCCLA has been my passion, inspiration, and motivation to be a better leader, friend, and family member to those around me.

I joined the organization during my ninth grade year of high school, not knowing the opportunities it provided to help guide me to be the person I am today.

From a bashful, introverted freshman to Georgia's dedicated, extroverted Vice President of Competitive Events, FCCLA has been my greatest achievement. I have fallen in love with this wonderful organization and every

idea it represents. The Organization's dedication to providing the future with such great leaders is what continues to draw me in.

Every year arrives with its challenges—challenges of every shape and size—but every year I prove to myself that any goal can be reached when you dedicate and apply yourself. Originally, I hated taking initiative and putting myself out there, but now I am drawn to be a leader and encourage others to take initiative and do more individually and within their chapters. With my state officer position, I am required to be in touch with chapter members throughout all of Georgia, and it is simply the best feeling I have ever had. The fact that a state delegation of almost 22,000 members can rely on me for guidance is a responsibility I never would have imagined myself fulfilling nor enjoying. FCCLA has transformed me into a better leader, a better friend, a better community member, and a better Morgan Sager.

Why did you join FCCLA?



By: Nolan MacFarland
State Secretary

Getting involved in FCCLA started out very fast for me. The first day of high school I walked into my second-period Early Childhood class and sat down in my seat. My teacher said, "Who wants to get into any college they want?" I raised my hand in question, wondering what could possibly do that. At that moment, I found out about the organization that changed my life.

Throughout the next week, I filled out my FCCLA information sheet and paid my dues. My teacher then spent the week after that talking about and discussing

this organization. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America just kept getting more and more interesting.

I decided that I wanted to do more than just be a member of FCCLA. The first community service that I did within it was at a retirement home where we decorated trees for Christmas.

Seeing the looks on their faces and seeing everyone else completely inspired me.

Over the course of the first year of my high school career, I participated in a multitude of activities and different adventures that taught me so much that I already had the groundwork for the rest of my high school career and future career.

My Journey, So Far



By: Madison Bookheimer
Region 4 Officer

I am Madison Bookheimer the Region 4 Officer. I attend Carroll County College and Career Academy - North Campus in Villa Rica Georgia and I am in the 11th grade.

I decided to run for office during my very first FCCLA chapter meeting. My adviser was showing the Early Childhood Class the Georgia FCCLA Website for a FCCLA webquest, and I was hooked.

I saw the red blazer and knew I wanted to wear it, and since that meeting I have accomplished that goal. I love being an officer, and I love working with the state executive council.

At Summer Camp, DISCOVER Training, and Fall Leadership Conference I enjoyed meeting, laughing, and getting to know members. I look forward to chapter visits and receiving chapter spotlights from all the chapters in Region 4.

I am excited to see each and every member grow as they make their journey through the Ultimate Leadership Experience.

My Growth Through FCCLA



By: Sabrina Rutledge
Region 7 Officer

Starting high school, I had no idea how much FCCLA would have impacted my life. I went from being a shy freshman to a self-

assured sophomore in just a matter of a year! This organization has helped me gain so much confidence with who I am as a person, and has also helped me to become a better leader within my community.

FCCLA has helped me find the speaking voice that I didn't know I had. I've always had anxiety with speaking in front of others, but thanks to STAR events, speeches, and presentations at meetings, I learned how to publicly speak without fear. This skill has helped me so much with school presentations, drama class, and even job interviews. But not only did I find my voice, I found my

confidence. In FCCLA, I took a huge step and ran to be a region officer. I'm so thankful that I was given this opportunity and this responsibility to take on. I'm sure my younger self would be so proud!

Not only have others watched me grow, but I myself completely see a change with who I am; and I give so much thanks to FCCLA. My growth has been a mountain to climb, but it has definitely been worth it! As Mandy Hale once said "If it's challenging you, testing you, and pushing you... it's helping you to become more of who you're meant to be!"

How FCCLA Continually Inspires Me



By: Amory Dowdy
Region 1 Officer

FCCLA inspires me is through all the amazing people! Before I joined FCCLA, I wasn't very outgoing; I couldn't speak in front of people without shaking, I couldn't start conversations with new people, and I definitely couldn't plan and present an entire workshop.

Through FCCLA, however, I have done all of these things and have become comfortable with all of them. This was only possible because I have so many kind, inspirational people that I know have got my back. I have my adviser, my State Executive Council, and all the members that I hope to be a

good role model for.

Last but not least, FCCLA inspires me by giving me the opportunity to inspire others. It gives me the chance to talk to thousands of people and teach them how to become the best versions of themselves.

People come to FCCLA events and listen to information that we share that could impact their entire future. I have the chance to show and teach others respect, initiative, leadership, and much more. These are just some of the ways that FCCLA has inspired me.

Chapter Meeting Fun Increases Membership & Participation

By: Kayleigh Byrd

This year Berrien High FCCLA has made it a priority to create fun chapter meetings! Since organizations are not given a time in school to meet until September, the August meeting was held after school with a focus on educating new members on all the opportunities for community service and competitions available through FCCLA.

After the general chapter business was handled chapter members had time to share and get to know new members. Refreshments are served at every meeting.

This meeting focused on sharing favorites... favorite chapter experiences, favorite memories, and favorite snacks! Most importantly this meeting excited new members and gave our chapter leaders a time to shine.

September's meeting fell in Homecoming Week on 80's day. So officers planned a meeting that was a throwback to the 80's. "FHA" had a record attendance with over 90 members. After updating the chapter, officers led members through several fun activities including an 80's songs karaoke battle.

Literally, the entire school heard the chapter rocking to 80's tunes. Students began saying "Sounds like y'all have lots of fun at your meetings." This buzz brought in new members and made meetings

something that should not be missed.

In October members had a pumpkin carving contest and decorated mini pumpkins for the local Nursing Home. Again after sharing our upcoming events members had fun! They either played games or carved pumpkins and had a snack.

What have we learned? Making meetings fun gives you the chance to communicate with and educate your membership. Students come for the fun part, but they hear what activities have been planned for the month and receive information on how to participate.

By making meetings fun we have created an attitude in our school that FCCLA Meetings shouldn't be missed. We are already seeing more students participate in community service activities and National Program activities. The more involved members get the more fun they have! Make fun part of your meetings and see what happens.



FCCLA Members Dress for 80's day after FCCLA Meeting.

Chefs of Tomorrow

By: Keio Gayden

The students in the Miller Grove High School culinary program take cooking so seriously they're willing to bet their spatulas and spoons on it.

Two of the program's best and brightest went chef hat-to-chef hat on October 21 at the "Chefs of Tomorrow" showdown hosted by Taste Atlanta at the Historic Fourth Ward Park.

The Culinary/ FCCLA students will also prepare chicken biscuits for over 150 chef participants each day, supplies provided by their sponsors at Springer Mountain Farms Chicken.

Miller Grove HS FCCLA/ Culinary uses this as one of their large community service projects allowing students to get involved with the local community while working hand in hand with various segments of the hospitality industry.

Each student participant gains hands on experience, life skills along with personal customer interactions that aids in communication skills.



Culinary students Marshania Thomas and Trayvon Hollinger express why they were selected for the Chefs of Tomorrow Competition at Taste of Atlanta.

NHHS FCCLA Hosts Benefit for Gateway Domestic Violence

By: Laura Morrison

North Hall High School FCCLA kicked off this year's community service project with a guest speaker from Gateway Domestic Violence Center. This year's community service project is inspired by Students Taking on Prevention, STOP the Violence program.

A children's advocate from Gateway spoke to students about types of abuse, ways to avoid abuse, and what they can do to help victims of abuse.

In the early 1980s, a group of concerned community leaders took notice of incidents of domestic violence across the country and decided to act locally. They founded Gateway House, now known as Gateway Domestic Violence Center, in October 1982. Over the years Gateway's programs have grown and so have its facilities.

Gateway offers emergency shelter for battered women and their children. The shelter is in a confidential location in Gainesville. Gateway also offers some transitional housing for clients moving out of their emergency shelters.

Gateway gains most of its

support from donations, grants, and support from the local community. NHHS FCCLA students plan to sponsor a clothing drive benefiting Gateway Domestic Violence Center during the months of October and November.

Students will donate gently used clothing to be sold in the Gateway thrift stores. Gateway operates three thrift stores in Hall County, and all of the proceeds from the stores benefit Gateway. Operating thrift stores enables Gateway to maintain an inventory of clothing for clients while generating income.

Our chapter is excited about this year's community service project and will also help Gateway with supply kits in January and February.



FCCLA members with Gateway founder, Stephanie Moniz.

GBS FCCLA Hosts Third STEAM Camp for Kids

By: Hadden Peel

FCCLA members hosted a children's STEAM Camp at Greenbrier High School for the third summer in a row this past June. Students in the Education Pathway designed STEAM appropriate lesson plans to use, while students in the Foods Pathway created the menu which included 2 snacks and a lunch based on a daily theme.

FCCLA members volunteered their time to train, set up and carry out a week long summer camp. Members were excited to carry out what we had learned in our pathways, get great work experience for our resumes and get all the volunteer hours we needed to satisfy National Honor Technical

Society community service requirements. The community really likes having a nearby day camp to keep kids busy and learning during the summer time. Our chapter was also able to raise money to help competitors get to nationals this summer. The kids had a blast!

This year we had to cut the number of campers back due to the school also hosting summer school and space being limited. In total, we had 50 campers ages 5-10 years old. Next summer we are planning for 60. Special thanks to our Advisors, Nancy Peel and Liza Davis, for giving up a week of their summer vacation to allow for this awesome experience. Fun was had by all!



Sarah Bittner, Unique Archer FCCLA Student

By: Emily Emmons
VP of Programs

Membership in FCCLA generally includes CTE students in many different career paths. However, sometimes you find unique members amongst the ranks of the FCCLA family. One unique member is Archer high school senior Sarah Bittner. Sarah is an avid Art student at Archer High School and is a new member of Archer FCCLA.

Sarah plans to become a graphic artist and had never been a part of FCCLA over her high school career until this year. Sarah was asked to join FCCLA to assist in designing of the Archer FCCLA t-shirt. She did a fabulous job with the design and was asked to compete in the lapel pin design competition for Fall Conference where she received 2nd place.

FCCLA allows members to express their talents and gifts. For example, we asked Sarah to describe her thoughts behind her lapel pin submission. She said, "I used sharpies and ink to help get the bold colors and clean lines I prefer to use in most of my works of art. Each item drawn into the state of Georgia has a deeper meaning to me.

Growing up as a Georgia gal obviously sparked my love for peaches and football, as seen on the bottom of the state. I included a soccer ball to represent the popularity of growing sport within the state. I placed the states fish, a large mouth bass, in the Blue Ridge region where most of our fishing streams are located.

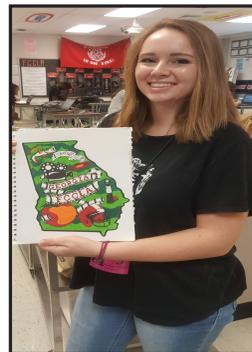
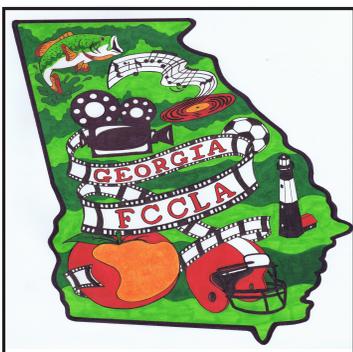
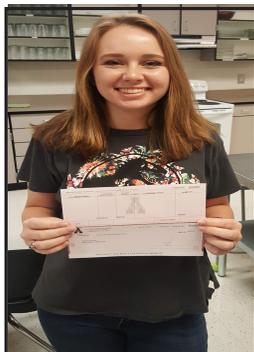
A vinyl record marks Athens to represent my love for music. Also in the Athens area, I included the music notes used by Zac Brown Band for the song Chicken Fried. The lighthouse on Tybee Island is located where Savannah is on the state. To represent the growing movie industry in Atlanta, I used film rapping down the state announcing the title of the pin.

The background is made of 2 shades of green as they stripe

across the page. They are more jagged near the mountainous terrain on a map, then smooth out when Georgia turns into flatter land."

This description of her piece is exactly what FCCLA wants to promote with creative and critical thinking and career preparation.

Sarah plans after high school to attend UGA or Piedmont College to major in graphic design. Being able to design many posters and shirts within high school has really allowed her an opportunity to discover her passion for graphic design. She said, "Being able to join FCCLA has definitely opened doors for me to further express my passion for art. I am greatly thankful that FCCLA has allowed me to be an artist with the different opportunities presented."



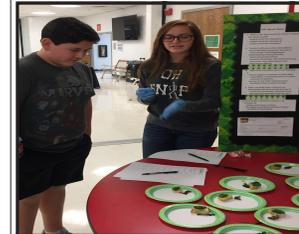
Pictured above: Sarah with her prize money check, Sarah's pin design, and Sarah with her 2nd pin design.

LHS FCCLA hosts a "Kickin it with Kale" event

By: Ashley Carter

FCCLA members at Loganville High School participated in the Georgia Organics "Kickin' it with Kale" event in October. Students hosted a tasting of three different kale recipes, kale pesto, kale chips, and a kale smoothie. The FCCLA members set up a Kickin' it with Kale booth in the commons area of the cafeteria. An information board was set up with the nutrient information for kale, recipes, and importance of greens in the diet.

Samples of the kale recipes were offered to students during the five lunches. Students tasted the kale pesto, kale chips, and the kale smoothie; and then filled out a survey created by FCCLA members. Overall, students enjoyed the tasting and were exposed to the nutritional value of kale. FCCLA members enjoyed preparing the samples for the tasting. Loganville FCCLA members are planning on growing kale to use for future tasting opportunities.

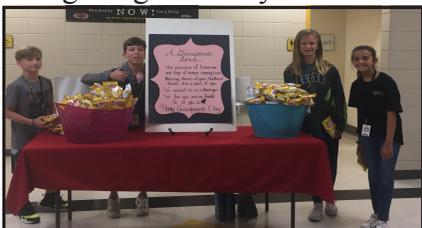


Loganville students trying Kale recipes.

Mossy Creek Grandparent's Day Fun

By: Sherry Sheppard

FCCLA joined in the celebration of Grandparents Day this past September. Chapter members prepared and personally handed out over 200 bags of Lay's potato chips. Each bag was adorned with a label that simply stated, "You are all that and a bag of chips". After eating lunch with their grandchildren, the grandparents received their bag of chips and a heartwarming 'thank you' for coming to the lunch. FCCLA members also helped the Mossy Creek Counselors pass out carnations to the grandmothers as they entered the Creek Café. Mossy Creek Middle School FCCLA members thoroughly enjoyed participating in this event and are already looking forward to joining in again next year.



FCCLA: More Than an Extracurricular

By: Hannah Becker

To me, FCCLA has always been more than just an extracurricular. Getting to lead this organization with one of my best friends is so rewarding, and I can already see the benefits that have come from it. I have just submitted my college application to Johnson and Wales University to pursue my dream of becoming a professional chef.

Not only will FCCLA help me in my cooking abilities and the leadership that comes with running a kitchen, but also offer scholarship opportunities through the school. FCCLA will help me on my culinary journey throughout college, as well as it helped me through high school. A huge factor

of every student's time in high school is the people that they surround themselves with.

FCCLA has helped me to make fast friendships. I met my, now, co-president in 9th grade in our Food, Nutrition, and Wellness class, which led us to join FCCLA together. We work as a team to lead our chapter, we attend field trips with the organization, and study hard for the Statesman every year.

These are just a few of the many tools that this organization has supplied me with over the past 4 years, and as I finish out my time in high school, I know that this is not the end of FCCLA, but merely the beginning of practicing all that it has taught me.



Sequoyah FCCLA Chapter Officers.

NMHS FCCLA and the Battle of Fill the Trucks

By: Kinnady Newton

North Murray High School FCCLA chapter participated in the Battle of the North vs. South "Fill the Trucks". This annual program is a county wide can food drive. We compete with all the schools in our county based on if they are on the north end or south end to collect can foods to donate to our community Christmas. Last year we collected the most canned foods and won the "Fill the Truck" trophy. We send fliers to our feeder schools to promote the canned food drive. Each high school parks a truck at our inner county rival football game and students and community members fill the bed of the trucks with canned foods. All donations stay in our community to help people locally.



FCCLA member Kinnady Newton donating to help fill the truck to benefit the community Christmas efforts.

More Letters from the State Executive Council

What does it mean to be a part of FCCLA?



By: Sumitra Dhakal
First Vice President

At the beginning of the school year, we are faced with so many options pertaining to clubs, sports, and organization but we chose FCCLA. There is so much we could be doing with our time, yet we choose to donate it to FCCLA and FACS. Why? Why does it feel so special to be part of this organization? What does being a part of this organization mean? For me, and for many others, being part of FCCLA gives us a second family.

Sometimes we spend more time in our advisor's room working on STAR Events, planning meeting and service projects than we do in our own rooms. We sometimes spend most of our weekend with members from our chapter as we help our community thrive. We spend hours in the same car, bus or

plane with our FCCLA family as we travel across the state and the nation.

FCCLA gives us the opportunity to meet people who are not in the same school, county or state as us. It allows us to make connections and form relations with people we would have otherwise never met. FCCLA provides us with the opportunities to surround ourselves with supportive and inspiring individuals who work every day to lift our spirit.

Being part of FCCLA allows us to develop skills that we will actually use. We have the opportunity to develop our networking and communicating skills as we advocate for our organizations to local business leaders, politicians school administrators and much more. Competitive Events such as Job Interview, Career Investigation, Culinary competitions and much more ensures that we are prepared our future whether that is college, career or something entirely different.

The opportunities that FCCLA provides to High School and Middle School students is incomparable. I considered myself so incredibly lucky to be a part of this organization and witness and experience all it has to offer.

Finding Myself in FCCLA



By: Kristen Hankins
VP of Public Relations

Freshman year I found myself in ECE I. I tuern around and find myself in the same room for Foods I. On the first day of school I heard how fantastic FCCLA is not only once, but twice in my FACS class. I began to believe that was a sign I needed to try it. I found myself giving every club and organization in my high school a try.

Unfortunately, I also found myself ready to give up on finding my place in high school by the third week. Then I heard the

announcement, "FCCLA meeting tomorrow." I went home and decided that if FCCLA wasn't my thing, I was taking the "bum route" for highschool.

I went to the meeting the next day and I was intrigued to find out this was an organization that focuses on family, empowers members into leaders, and gives the opportunity to miss school often. I went to my first event and decided I was going all in. I wanted to be one of the leaders in a blazer.

I ran for office the following year and served as the State Historian. I couldn't just settle for one term so I ran again and I am serving as the VP of Public Relations.

Not only did I find my highschool home in FCCLA, but I also found out who I was and what I wanted to be. Upon graduation I will be majoring in FACS to be an adviser just like my own so I can help students just like myself and never leave FCCLA!

Towards New Horizons



By: Zubaida Adres
Region 3 Officer

The year was 2016. I was an 8th grader who had given up on school; my grades were dropping and so was my interest in being involved with any extracurriculars. For a while, I had forgotten my main goal of being a teacher until it came time to sign up for Freshmen classes.

I chose Early Childhood Education because I knew that I still wanted to be the person to leave an impact on the next generation. I never thought I would be on the way to a career path that early, but by taking an ECE course, I excelled my personal horizon.

Little did I know there was another milestone I could leap to;

when my adviser, Ms. Caitlin Mitchell encouraged students to join FCCLA I became excited to get further involved in ECE, since they are co-curricular. At the first meeting there were four officers and our chapter needed two more.

I was determined to have a leadership role in this organization so I persevered through the application process and interview. By becoming a chapter officer I created a new horizon for myself and reached it. Throughout that year FCCLA gave me the chance to serve my community, dive further into my career pathway and become a leader not a follower.

I made the decision to give back to this organization and what it has done for me and the people around me. I felt prepared to run for region office, and become a part of something bigger than myself.

Through FCCLA I have met the most impactful people in my life, from teachers who give it their all to the members who truly make this a student-led organization. Every day as a Region Officer I am climbing towards new horizons, and I know that this organization can do the same for all 160,000+ members.

How FCCLA Inspires Me



By: Matthew Penrow
State Historian

When I joined FCCLA I was a shy and reserved student. I hated all social interaction and did my best to avoid it. I will never forget the day and events I participated in when I joined "The Ultimate Leadership Experience". I learned that FCCLA was so much more than future cooking and cleaning ladies. I learned it was a student body, an organization where students could participate in events that let them express who they truly were.

My first conference, fall rally, gave me a small glimpse of what FCCLA had to offer. I participated in the knowledge bowl and learned

that every student in FCCLA was eager to represent FCCLA and glad to be a part of it. Even seeing all the state and region officers on stage leading this whole state association was inspiring. After that, I knew I wanted to take advantage of every single opportunity FCCLA had to offer and so I did.

I believe I participated in EVERY conference FCCLA had to offer that year. I also decided to make the leap of faith and run for state office, all in my first year.

Seeing how confident officers and members were through competitions and events inspired me to further my FCCLA career. Flash forward to serving as your State Historian, FCCLA continues to inspire me each and every day.

It's not just the organization but the members and role I get to play in inspiring others. I encourage all of you to take advantage of everything FCCLA has to offer you, and if you want to make the big leap to in for state office you definitely should because you want to look back at everything that you did do, instead of everything you didn't do.