



Governor's Honors Program Announcement of 2020 Hall County School District Semifinalists

Twenty-three Hall County School District students have been selected as Semifinalists for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program (GHP). These students will move on to GHP Interviews in late February, competing to be named a finalist for GHP.

The Governor's Honors Program is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors. Managed by the Governor's Office for Student Achievement, it will take place this year at Berry College in Rome, Ga. The 2020 program will be the 57th summer, making it the longest continually running program of its kind in the nation.

Public and private high schools across the state nominated almost 3,200 students who represent the "best of the best" in eleven areas of study: Agricultural Science, Communicative Arts, Dance, Engineering, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Studies, Theatre, Visual Arts and World Languages. Of these, less than 1600 were selected as Semifinalists and will be interviewed and auditioned in February. Approximately 650 Finalists – one-fourth of 1% of eligible sophomores and juniors in the state -- will be chosen to participate in the 2020 program. Since the program is fully funded by the Georgia General Assembly, there is no charge for students to attend.

During the four weeks of the program, students spend the morning in their major area of nomination, exploring enrichment topics not usually found in the high school classroom. In the afternoons, students choose one of the other areas in which to study. The curriculum in all the areas is challenging and engaging. Evenings are filled with seminars, activities, concerts and performances.

Dr. Sally Krisel, Hall County's Director of Innovative and Advanced Programs, said, "GHP is such a prestigious program that even being nominated at the school level is a tremendous accomplishment. I congratulate all of the outstanding students who were nominated. I know these 23 Semifinalists will represent the district well at the statewide interviews."

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Please see the list of Hall County's 2020 GHP Semifinalists on the following page.

Hall County School District's Semifinalists for the 2020 Georgia Governor's Honors Program are:

Student Name:	Nomination Area:	School:
Abigail Boyer	Communicative Arts	Chestatee High School
Alexandra Valenzuela	World Languages: Spanish	Johnson High School
Alexis Sandoval	Science: Chemistry	Chestatee High School
Allison Ladd	Theatre	East Hall High School
Atira Murawski	Music Brass: Trombone	West Hall High School
Elizabeth Duetemeyer	Theatre	North Hall High School
Emiko Kuhs	Visual Arts	Johnson High School
Emma Yancey	World Languages: Spanish	West Hall High School
Emmanuel Simela	Music Voice: Bass	Flowery Branch High School
Eva Lesutis	World Languages: Spanish	Johnson High School
Faith Townsend	Science: Chemistry	Johnson High School
Hunter Bennett	Mechanical & Electrical Engineering	Chestatee High School
Jack Ramsey	Mathematics	Flowery Branch High School
Jacques Shepherd	World Languages: Chinese	West Hall High School
Jose Mendoza	World Languages: Spanish	West Hall High School
Joshua Turner	Mechanical Design Engineering	Flowery Branch High School
Juan Rosillo-Hernandez	World Languages: Spanish	Chestatee High School
Julia Dao	Visual Arts	Johnson High School
Julia Porter	Communicative Arts	Flowery Branch High School
Kenia Alejo	World Languages: Spanish	West Hall High School
Leonardo Nunez	Mechanical Design Engineering	Flowery Branch High School
Noah Ledford	Theatre	East Hall High School
Rachel Kerce	Visual Arts	Johnson High School