



NEWS RELEASE

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCCPSS Announces Governor's Honors Program Finalists

Twelve students from the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System have been selected as finalists for the Georgia Governor's Honors Program.

The Governor's Honors Program, known as GHP, is a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors. A function of the Georgia Department of Education, it takes place on the campus of Valdosta State University (VSU). The 2013 program marks the 50th summer for GHP, making it the longest continually running program of its kind in the nation. Mr. Dale Lyles, director, said, "GHP is such a competitive program that even being nominated is an accomplishment. I congratulate the students of Savannah-Chatham County and look forward to meeting them and their parents in June." He added that many, if not most of GHP's past participants, regard it as one of the most life-changing events in their lives.

Nearly 3000 students from across the state were interviewed and auditioned over three weekends in January and February, and from those nominees 690 finalists were chosen to participate in the 2013 program.

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System's finalists for the 2013 Georgia Governor's Honors Program are **Eric Aupperle**, Savannah Arts Academy, Communicative Arts; **Shakira Bella**, Savannah Arts Academy, Dance; **James Berrigan**, Savannah Arts Academy, Social Studies; **Kevin Heritage**, Savannah Arts Academy, Music/Strings (Cello); **Jonell Joshua**, Savannah Arts Academy, Visual Arts; **Amelia Lux**, Savannah Arts Academy, Theatre Performance; **Jamison Murphy**, Savannah Arts Academy, Communicative Arts; **Paula Reyna Small**, Savannah Arts Academy, Music/Strings (Violin); **Nicholas Tedrick**, Savannah Arts Academy, Spanish; **Maryah Thompson**, Savannah Arts Academy, Music/Strings (Viola); **Lena White**, Savannah Arts Academy, Visual Arts; **Dane Zurwell**, Windsor Forest High School, Spanish.

Students will arrive on the campus of VSU on Sunday, June 23, 2013. For four weeks, students will spend the morning in their major area of nomination, exploring topics not usually found in the regular high school classroom. During 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.

More information about GHP can be found on the Georgia Department of Education website (gadoe.org) under the division of School Improvement.