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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Presenting the Houston County School District 2020 Valedictorians & Salutatorians

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County high schools have announced their valedictorian and salutatorian for the Classes of 2020. The top graduates are:

- ★ **Houston County High** ~ Valedictorian Shivani Narain, Salutatorian Vishesh Patel;
- ★ **Northside High** ~ Valedictorian Willow Truman, Salutatorian Colbert “Tre” Flagg, III;
- ★ **Perry High** ~ Valedictorian Trevor Vandersall, Salutatorian Colson Jones;
- ★ **Veterans High** ~ Valedictorian Isha Shah, Salutatorian Colton Walker; and
- ★ **Warner Robins High** ~ Valedictorian Peyton Page, Salutatorian Shu Lin Zheng.

Commencement ceremonies will be May 22 and May 23, 2020. All ceremonies will be held in Perry at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Reeves Arena. Approximately 1,900 students will graduate. The graduation schedule and estimated number of graduates follows.

- ★ Warner Robins High School, Friday, May 22, 4:30 p.m., about 319 graduates;
- ★ Veterans High School, Friday, May 22, 8:00 p.m., about 405 graduates;
- ★ Perry High School, Saturday, May 23, 8:30 a.m., about 300 graduates;
- ★ Houston County High School, Saturday, May 23, 12:00 p.m., about 458 graduates;
- ★ Northside High School, Saturday, May 23, 3:30 p.m., about 422 graduates.

Photographs and brief biographies for each valedictorian and salutatorian follow.

### Houston County High Valedictorian, Shivani Narain



Shivani Narain is an active member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and currently serves as Parliamentarian, which is state officer for the organization. She previously served as the 2018-2019 Region 5 Vice President and currently serves as the school's FBLA Executive Vice-President. She is also a successful competitor in FBLA - she has won two national awards in Hospitality Management and Entrepreneurship, as well as a state award in Client Service. In addition to FBLA, she actively participates in National Honors Society, National Technical Honors Society, and Spanish Honors Society. Her honors include Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, Georgia Certificate of Merit, Science Fair 1<sup>st</sup> place regional and state winner, and Highest Average Awards in Honors Geometry, Introduction to Business and Technology, Spanish 1, Honors U.S. History, AP English Language and

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Composition and Financial Literacy. She serves her community by volunteering at the Lake Joy Assisted Living Center, Houston Medical Center, and local elementary schools. Shivani plans to pursue a business degree with a concentration in Finance. She is the daughter of Iyer and Hema Narain, and has an older sister, Vaishnavi.

### Houston County High Salutatorian, Vishesh Patel

Vishesh Patel currently serves as the Georgia Association of Student Councils Convention Chairman, National Honors Society Chapter President, and FBLA Chapter Community Service Chairman. Previously, he served as Junior Class Vice President, Psychological Society Vice President, and FBLA Community Service Chairman. In addition, he participates in Student Council, Spanish Honors Society, and Beta Club. His honors include second place in Business Law at the FBLA National Leadership Conference, AP Scholar with Distinction, Georgia Certificate of Merit, Student Council Member of the Year, Governor's Honors Program Semifinalist, and Warner Robins Recreation Baseball All-Star. He enjoys serving his community by volunteering at Lake Joy Primary, Lake Joy Elementary, David Perdue Primary and David Perdue Elementary, the Central Georgia Soccer Association and various other locations within the community. Patel participated in 12 AP classes and numerous honors classes during his time at Houston County High. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a degree in biology or biochemistry. He is the son of Dinesh and Rupal Patel, and the younger brother of Vivek.



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### Northside High Valedictorian, Willow Truman

Willow Truman has a four-year membership to the Beta Club, as well as a three-year membership to the National Spanish Honor Society, in which she serves as Vice President. She is also an Advanced Placement Scholar, receiving fives on two of her exams. In addition, Truman has placed in the top 5% of the collective school's grades consecutively for three years. She is a recipient for both the Georgia Certificate of Merit and Governor's Honors Program in Mathematics and Communicative Arts. Involved in the community, she spends frequent afternoons teaching Spanish to students at Lake Joy Primary School and volunteering at the Humane Society and Warner Robins Animal Control. Upon graduation, Truman plans to attend the University of Georgia in the fall, majoring in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Her parents are Howard and Julia Truman, and she has one sister, Amanda Braswell.



### Northside High Salutatorian, Colbert "Tre" Flagg, III

Colbert "Tre" Flagg, III received the AP Scholar Award and Georgia Certificate of Merit. He is a National Beta Club member, three-time Top 5% Scholastic Award recipient, Academic Bowl team member, varsity soccer athlete since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and has served as captain at his club level. He received the highest average in over 12 classes including AP Chemistry, AP Psychology, and AP World History. Flagg was accepted into the National Society for Leadership and Success at Middle Georgia State University (MGSU), where he is on track to graduate this spring with his Associate of Science. He has earned a place on the President's list at MGSU, as well as an Academic Honor Roll certificate from Central Georgia Technical College. Flagg was awarded full scholarships from the NROTC and AFROTC programs. He has also been accepted to Mercer University with a \$100,000 scholarship, Special Consideration Program for Doctor of Medicine degree and first year honors experience invitation. In addition, he has been accepted to the United States Naval Academy on a full scholarship, Georgia Tech, and several other schools with scholarships. He works at Chick-fil-A as a trainer and closer. In his free time, Flagg volunteers at soup



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kitchens, book readings, book sales, STEM camps and soccer camps. He plans to major in Chemistry with the goal of becoming a neurosurgeon or cardiologist. His parents are Colbert and April Flagg, Jr.

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**Perry High Valedictorian, Trevor Vandersall**



Trevor Vandersall is an Advanced Placement Scholar and the 2020 Perry High School STAR Student. A recipient of the Georgia Certificate of Merit, Vandersall has maintained a 4.0 GPA through four years of high school. He was nominated for the Governor's Honors Program and has received recognition for the highest average in AP Biology, AP Language & Composition, AP U. S. History, Honors Biology, Honors U. S. and World Affairs, Honors World Literature, Honors Chemistry, and French I. Vandersall marched with the Panther Regiment Band for two years and currently plays tuba in both the PHS Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. He has played on the Perry Panthers football team for four years and has earned Player of the Week honors several times. Vandersall was named the Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman for the 2018-19 season and won the PHS Football Hazel Jackson Scholar

Athlete Award for the past three seasons. He was awarded the Curtis Riner Coach's award for the 2019-20 season. He earned Football Region 2 AAAA Honorable Mention and was named a Scholar Athlete for 2018-19. He was accepted to Georgia Institute of Technology and plans to major in biomedical engineering. His parents are Scott and Donna Vandersall.

**Perry High Salutatorian, Colson Jones**

Colson Jones is an AP Scholar with honors; he has taken a rigorous coarse load, including Advanced Placement Statistics, American History, Computer Science, Chemistry, Language and Composition, Literature, Economics, and Calculus. He is an active member of FBLA. Jones recently won a regional award for Economics and will compete at state level for Economics, as well as for Coding and Programming. He is also active in the Perry High School Theatre Department; on and off the stage, Jones has participated in numerous award-winning shows. He is Vice-President for the PHS Chapter of National Honors Society. Although undecided on which college he will attend next year, Jones plans to major in computer science with a minor in cognitive science. Colson Jones is the son of Roman and Jerre Jones; he has two siblings, Tanner and Anna Jones.



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**Veterans High Valedictorian, Isha Shah**



Isha Shah currently serves as the Veterans High Beta Club president and Literary Magazine editor. The 2017-2018 Miss VHS, she is also a member of Partners Club, Science Olympiad, Mu Alpha Theta Math Team, Concert Band and the tennis team. A 2018-19 Warner Robins Youth Leadership member, she was the first place and grand prize award winner at the Houston Regional Science Fair, second at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair, and a finalist at the International Science and Engineering Fair for the past two years. Shah also founded Sci-π, an organization that tutors elementary school students. Furthermore, she is a Bernard-Ramsey Scholar and Foundation Fellowship finalist at UGA. The daughter of Ojash and Archana Shah, Isha spent last summer interning at Emory Winship Cancer Institute. She plans to major in Public Health at the University of Georgia and then pursue a

career in medicine as she continues to conduct research, learning about the interdisciplinary nature of healthcare and economics.

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**Veterans High Salutatorian, Colton Walker**

Colton Walker currently serves as the president of Mu Alpha Theta and the secretary of the National Spanish Honor Society. He has earned first place at the Regional Science Fair every year since 2014. Additionally, Mr. Walker has gone on to win first place at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair 2014-2017 and second place in 2018-2019; he also competed at the International Science and Engineering Fair in 2018 and 2019. He was a member of the Perry Youth Leadership Team his junior year and was chosen as Optimist Student of the Month his senior year. Walker has participated on the varsity football, soccer, wrestling and track teams. He also volunteers with Special Olympics, Southside Baptist Church, Family Promise and other community organizations. The son of Walter and Vicki Walker, he plans to attend Georgia Tech or Georgia Southern to major in electrical engineering.



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**Warner Robins High Valedictorian, Peyton Page**



Peyton Elizabeth Page is both an Honors Student and an Advanced Placement Scholar, as well as a Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient. She has received multiple awards for the highest GPA in her high school classes. Page has been a Governor's Honor Program nominee twice, and was a semi-finalist in Communicative Arts. She has participated regularly for three years in the Demon Marching Band and the Symphonic and Concert Band for four. In addition, she has been a member of Junior Beta Club for four years and a Stonewall Club member for one. Page is considering University of Georgia or Georgia State University as her post-secondary education. She is the daughter of Ryan and Mary Page.

**Warner Robins High Salutatorian, Shu Lin Zheng**

Shu Lin Zheng is an Advanced Placement student and a Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient. Zheng was a 2019 Governor's Honors Program Semi-Finalist in 2D studio art and received a score of 5 on the AP studio art exam. She also received multiple art show awards such as the Perry Art Show and Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia. Zheng was a member of Art Club, FCCLA and Beta Club. To further her education, she is considering Columbus State University or the Savannah College of Art and Design.



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