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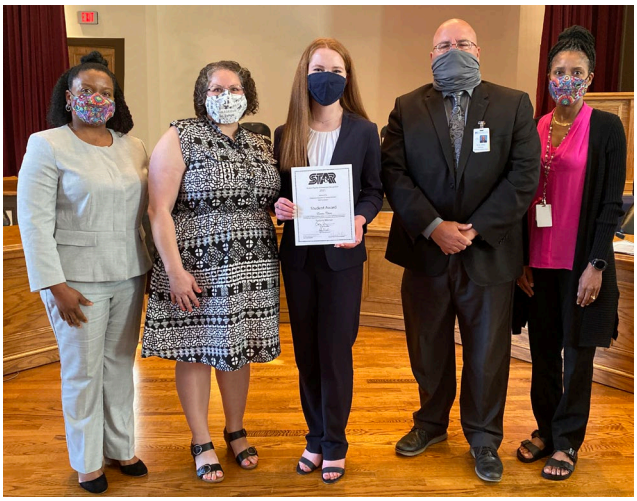
STAR Students & Teachers Honored
Houston County High Wins District



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Perry Area and Robins Regional Chambers of Commerce hosted the annual Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) ceremony on April 15, 2021. Each STAR Student and STAR Teacher was honored, and the district winner was announced for the first time. Houston County High School senior Emma Ringe was named the 2021 District STAR Student for Houston County. Her STAR Teacher is Jennifer McDaniel, who teaches AP and Honors World History at Houston County High.

The 2021 STAR Students and Teachers for the Houston County School District are:

- ★ Northside High: Penelope Jackson and teacher John Masters;
- ★ Perry High: Maximus Genio and teacher Dr. Courtney Herbert;
- ★ Veterans High: Phoebe "Bella" Caldwell and teacher Jennifer Douglass; and
- ★ Warner Robins High is Farinaz Zahiri and teacher Jason Smith.

The Chambers presented each STAR Student a certificate and $100. Their STAR Teachers also received a certificate and gift. As the District STAR Student, Ringe received an additional $400, and McDaniel received $100. Ringe and McDaniel advanced to the region competition.

Pictured from Houston County High are: Assistant Principal Katrina Jackson, McDaniel, Ringe, Principal Dr. Doug Rizer and Counselor Melissa Jones.

"I am honored to have been chosen as Emma's STAR Teacher," said McDaniel. "Emma has grown from a shy freshman who was brave enough to push herself into uncomfortable situations to a confident and strong senior who helps guide others to discover that same strength in themselves. She has consistently demonstrated an ability to rise to any challenge that she must face. I will never forget Emma, and I hope to have more students like her in my career."

Ringe is her school's Student Council President, and she has served as State President and Crowd Compass App Consultant. She is the Brass Captain of the Black and Silver Brigade, Math Team Captain and member of the National Honors Society and Beta Club. Ringe has won several state and national Beta Club awards in creative writing and math. At the Georgia Social Studies Fair, she won Best in Class III, Best in Division History and Best STEM Project. Accolades include National Merit Finalist, Governor's Honors Program and acceptance into the Georgia Institute of Technology's distance mathematics program. An AP Scholar with Distinction, she earned a score of five on six Advanced Placement exams. Ringe enjoys volunteering with local elementary schools, school clean-ups, community food drives and the humane society. She plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to study computer science.

McDaniel has been teaching since 2008, after graduating from Georgia College and State University (GCSU) with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Teaching Degree, with a history concentration. She earned her Specialist in Teacher Leadership from GCSU in 2020. McDaniel is Gifted Certified and AP World History Certified, and she has earned a Teacher Coaching Endorsement. She has taught at Houston County High since 2014. McDaniel teaches AP and Honors World History and sponsors the National Honors Society, Student Council, National Historical Honor Society, 10th grade Class Officers and Prom Committee. This is the third time she has been named STAR Teacher. She is married and has three children.

Region winners will be announced in late April 2021 and will advance to the state virtual recognition ceremony planned for May 16, 2021. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation sponsors, administers and promotes the STAR Program.

The STAR program began in 1958 to focus attention on Georgia's outstanding students and teachers. To obtain the nomination, high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the SAT. Students must also be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class based on grade point average. Each STAR student selects a STAR teacher who has been the most influential to their academic success. STAR students compete for system, region and state-level awards.

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