



A Publication for the Parents, Staff & Community of Leesburg High School

# Leesburg High School Times

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Jacket Nation!

As we start 2017, I am excited to welcome you to the first edition of our school newsletter: the *Leesburg High School Times*! This will be another means of sharing important news and information with students, parents, and the community. There is always a lot going on here at LHS with the many programs, events, and athletic competitions happening and we want you to be aware of them all. We have so much to be proud of in the Jacket Nation and we want to try to spotlight as many success stories as we can, whether it is students, staff, teams, clubs, or the school as a whole. As you look over this first edition, please feel free to share with us any suggestions for future topics, things you would like more information on, and we will try to include them in future editions.

Each year here in Florida our students are tested in variety of subjects throughout the spring. These assessments are important for both students and LHS. Our teachers and staff have been working diligently to prepare our students to perform their very best on each exam. Please support these efforts by encouraging your student to arrive on time on testing days. The testing schedule is posted on our website for your convenience. Additionally, try to ensure your son or daughter have gotten enough rest, eat some breakfast, and are aware of the location for their test. All of that information is given to them ahead of time, but sometimes reminders are helpful.

We have had a very smooth and productive first semester and are off to a great start for the second. We hope this newsletter helps keep you informed and provides you with helpful information to make sure we continue on the road to success. Thank you for your continued support of Leesburg High School and we look forward to seeing you soon. Fear the Swarm!

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Neal  
Principal

### Administration

**Principal**  
Dennis Neal

**Assistant Principals**  
Porshiale Byfield, 10th  
Karla Clark, 9th  
Tammy Demps  
Clarence Truitt, 11th & 12th

**Guidance Counselors**  
Adrian Banks, 9th Grade  
Catherine Lockett, 10th Grade  
Amanda Reynolds, 11th Grade  
Griffin-Gay, 12th Grade

**Family School Liaison**  
Charlene Kee

### Home of the Yellow Jackets

**Main Phone:** (352) 787-5047

**Attendance**  
(352) 787-5047, Ext. 7025

**Guidance**  
(352) 787-5047, Ext. 7014  
**Fax:** (352) 787-5091

**School Day**  
7:20 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

**March 2017**  
**Volume 1 Issue 1**

## Focusing on Positive Behavior

At LHS we are seeking to effectively reduce problem behavior through changing systems, altering environments, teaching skills, and focusing on positive behaviors.

**BEE BUCKS** are given by: All Faculty and Staff

**BEE BUCK:** Slips allow students to purchase items at our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) table.

**BEE BUCK PURPOSE:** to reward groups of students for meeting school-wide expectations such as being prepared, on time, putting forth great effort, respectfulness, politeness, along with behavior and academic improvements.

We have found that the BEE BUCK system here at LHS has been a very effective and successful program. The students are striving more to reach the goals of the expectations listed on the BEE BUCKS. Our hope is to see this program become bigger and better each school year.

Kathy Radcliffe  
Facilitator for Positive Behavior Support Program



## Old Yearbooks Available

We have the following past class unused Yearbooks available for sale. Please contact Allison Auld at (AuldA@lake.k12.fl.us) or call (352)787-5047 x 7013.

These are the **Past Class Yearbooks for sale at \$15.00 each.** Shipping not included in price: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

These are the list of **Past Class Yearbooks for sale at \$75.00 each.** Shipping not included in price: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2016.

## Lake County Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to our very own Mrs. Tammy Jerkins who was honored as Lake County Teacher of the Year, sponsored by the Educational Foundation of Lake County. Mrs. Jerkins, a 1977 Leesburg High School graduate and valedictorian of her class.

She has been teaching secondary math at Leesburg High School since 2004. Her classes have ranged from algebra to geometry; and trigonometry to applied math. This year she is teaching Math for College Readiness and Pre-Calculus Honors.

Mrs. Jerkins attends South 14th Street Church of Christ in Leesburg where she teaches 2 and 3 year olds on Sundays and children ages 4 to 7 on Wednesday nights at church. Mrs. Jerkins and her church members donate breakfast snacks to Leesburg High Family Engagement Center on a monthly basis.

We are so proud of her!



## Leesburg High Recognizes Student Successes!

A breakfast was held for A/B students who made the honor roll.



## Student Calendar

- February 20, 2017** ..... Presidents' Day/Student Holiday (Monday)
- March 10, 2017**..... End of Third Grading Period (Friday)
- March 13-17, 2017** .... Spring Break (Monday-Friday)
- March 20, 2017**..... Non-Student Day/Teacher Work Day (Monday)
- March 21, 2017**..... Classes Resume (Tuesday)  
Fourth Grading Period Begins (Tuesday)
- April 14, 2017**..... Non-Student Day (Friday)
- May 24, 2017**..... Last Day of Classes (Wednesday)  
End of Fourth Grading Period (Wednesday)

## Do You Know Your Family School Liaison And What's Available At LHS?

My name is Charlene Kee. I am the Family School Liaison at Leesburg High School. My role is to aid students and parents in ways that can help in having a successful school year. I am responsible for providing workshops and trainings for you as parents, in order to support your child's success in school. Please review the list of workshops/trainings listed below for you and your family to attend. **We encourage you to RSVP before every event to ensure that adequate meals and handouts are ordered.**

My office is located in Building 1-Room 111 near the Attendance Office. The Parent/Student Engagement Center has educational materials and take home technology available for parents to check out for their child. I also have basic need items, such as school supplies, personal hygiene products, a clothes closet, and a food pantry to assist our LHS families.

Please feel free to contact me about any specific needs that you may have regarding your child or children's education. My goal is to best serve your needs and direct you to the proper faculty, staff member, or outside agency if needed. My hours are 7:00 am-2:30 pm, Monday – Friday.

Thank you,  
Charlene D. Kee  
Family School Liaison, LHS  
352-787-5047 ext. 7082  
keedyc@lake.k12.fl.us

### Parent/Students Workshops/Trainings at Leesburg High School. Dinner served at 5:30 pm:

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday, March 23	AP Potential/PSAT Night College Board - 5:30 pm	LHS Cafeteria
Thursday, April 20	Career Technical Education (CTE) - 5:30 pm A showcase to show parents and students the importance of academic achievement related to the CTE classes.  Come out and meet the teachers and coaches while they showcase career classes that are offered at Leesburg High.	LHS Cafeteria/ Courtyard

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Leesburg High School  
1401 Yellow Jacket Way  
Leesburg, FL 34748

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## Guidance Department

### Seniors

The guidance department encourages you to visit our Leesburg High School website. You can visit the page titled scholarships, as well as Mrs. GG's page to see NEW scholarships listed. We encourage you to use your weekends and free time to work on scholarship applications as well as college admission applications.

Your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened October 1, 2016. If you have not already done so, please log on to [www.fafsa.org](http://www.fafsa.org) and file your FAFSA for the 2017-18 school year. You will need to create your personalized **FAFSA ID and PASSWORD** before you can begin.

### Juniors

You will participate in a school day SAT testing session on March 1, 2017. Students will report to school like normal and all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be directed to their testing locations. If 11<sup>th</sup> grade students would like to practice, they can log onto <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org> and begin practicing for the upcoming test. If students typically receive testing accommodations at school, please be sure to contact your guidance counselor, as they may be able also receive those accommodations on this national College Board exam.

### Attention Underclassmen

Your 2017-2018 Course Selection sheets will be distributed to returning students in February. Students will need to return the form to their grade level guidance counselor prior to Spring Break. Please make sure a parent signs your course selection sheet. You can also log into you skyward account and complete your course selections for next year electronically. However, your grade level counselor will still need to receive a hard copy course selection sheet.

Are you interested in attending LAKE TECH? If so, please visit Lake Tech's website at [www.laketech.org](http://www.laketech.org). There will be a Career TechXpo Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 5pm – 7pm. You can meet instructors, tour the facility, as well as ask questions and get answers. The event is FREE and open to the public. If you are interested in any of the programs at Lake Tech please visit the guidance office for more information.

## What Colleges Really Look for In an Applicant

*By: Mr. Don Herold*

You are getting ready to graduate and planning to go to college. Your grades are OK, but what else are colleges looking for in the students that apply? Every college is different, but the following are traits that most colleges look for in students that apply for admission. Don't wait until your senior year to try and fulfill these suggestions. Colleges look at your transcript from your freshman year to your junior year. Because you should apply early in your senior year, what you do in your senior year is not taken into the process until after you graduate.

Colleges are looking to see that you have challenged yourself in high school. They would rather see you take an AP or Honor class and struggle to get a C, instead of taking basic courses and getting all A's and B's in those classes. This should begin in your freshmen year and continue in each year of high school.

Scores on standardized test like the ACT and SAT are important. The ACT is probably the most important test you will take. Your score goes hand-in-hand with your GPA and class rank. The higher your GPA/class rank the lower ACT score will be considered. The opposite is also true. The higher your ACT scores the lower the GPA/class rank will be considered. However, high scores on the ACT do not compensate for low grades.

Your college essay provides the admissions department with a glimpse of your unique personality. It should demonstrate your values and goals. It must be well written, carefully prepared, well-constructed, and free from spelling and grammatical mistakes. It is a good idea to have someone review it before you submit it.

Your involvement in extra activities both in school and within the community are also important. Colleges would rather see you committed to and involved in a few activities over minimal involvement in a large number of activities. Leadership roles are also well looked upon. Meaningful use of your free time is also important.

Are you a leader? Colleges look for students that demonstrate leadership and initiative. Have you progressed in a club from a regular member to a leadership position? Have you been a founder of a club in high school? Have you served as captain of an athletic team? Have you made a major contribution to a club or organization? These are all things colleges look for in leadership roles.

Letters of recommendation provide evidence of integrity, special skills, positive character traits, and leadership. While still in high school, see your teachers and guidance counselors and ask them for a letter of reference. Allow them time to write this for you.

These traits will help you be successful in your college application process. Be sure to apply early and to more than one college. Good Luck!

## John M. McKay Scholarship

### Required notification to parents/guardians of students with disabilities:

Your child **may** be eligible to participate in the **John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program for the 2017-18 school year.**

In order to be eligible for the McKay Scholarship Program, a student must apply for the program prior to withdrawing from public school. The student must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP), or 504 Accommodation Plan issued under s. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (with duration of more than six months), and:

- Have been enrolled and reported for funding in a public school for the school year prior to applying for a scholarship (Grades K-12); or
- Have been a prekindergarten student who was enrolled and reported for funding in a Florida public school during the school year prior to applying for a scholarship; or
- Have attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind during the preceding school year's student membership surveys (Grades K-12).

If your child meets these requirements you may receive a scholarship for your child to attend a participating private school. Parents may also choose another public school within the district's school choice plan or another public school in an adjacent school district. In order for a student to be eligible for the program, an intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program must be filed on the Department of Education's School Choice website ([www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org)) prior to withdrawing from public school. The deadline to apply for the first payment period for private school McKay for the 2017-18 school year is July 3, 2017. Parents interested in public school choice McKay need to call the district McKay contact at 352-253-6600.

**This notice does not guarantee your student's eligibility.** To learn more about your child's educational options, contact the Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice Information Hotline at 1-800-447-1636 or visit the website at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org) and select the John M. McKay Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities Program option. You may file your intent online. For more information, contact your school or Sharon Rodgers, ESE Program Specialist, at (352) 253-6630.

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## Teen Parent Program

Students! Are you aware that Leesburg High School has a Teen Parent Program that works with teens who are pregnant or have children? This program is also available for males with a partner who is pregnant.

This program is available to students who are currently working towards a high school diploma and can document their pregnancy or with the documented birth of their child (birth certificate/foot prints).

We can help with resources such as WIC, Medicaid, birthing classes, and many other services. We provide free child care for infants and toddlers, transportation to child care and school, pack and plays, car seats at a very reduced cost, and other items that go along with pregnancy, infants, and toddlers.

See Mrs. Moyer in building 1, room 111A, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I share a room with Mrs. Kee: Family and Community Liaison contact.

Leah Moyer, Teen Parent Resource Teacher  
352-551-0882

[moyerl@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:moyerl@lake.k12.fl.us)



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- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
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- Substance Abuse
- Adjustment Disorder

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or email

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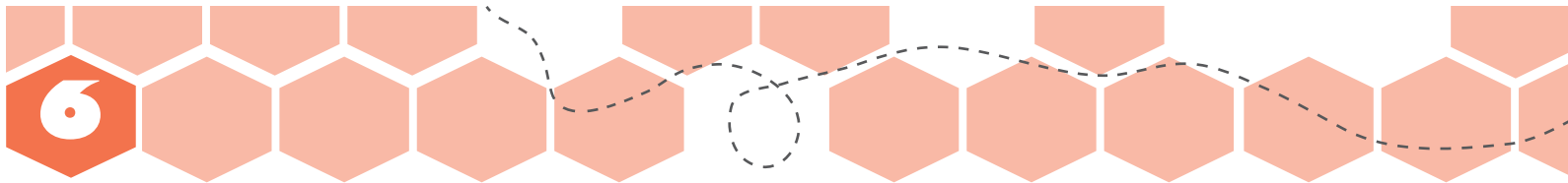
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## What You Need to Know About FSA ELA

- Graduation Requirements
- Testing Calendar
- Understanding the Scores
- Concordant Tests
- Question Format
- Where to Find Additional Information

Visit [fsassessments.org](http://fsassessments.org) for more information

### What is the FSA ELA?

In Grades 4-10, the FSA ELA assessment includes two components, which are combined to provide a whole test FSA ELA scale score:

1. A Text-Based Writing Component in which students respond to one writing task each spring. This component is administered earlier to allow time for hand scoring.
2. A Reading, Language, and Listening component in which students respond to texts and multimedia.

### Graduation Requirements

Students must pass the Grade 10 FSA ELA as part of their requirement for graduation. An Achievement Level of 3 must be attained, which is equivalent to a scale score range of 350-361. Students who take and pass the FSA ELA in 9th grade must still take and pass the FSA ELA in the 10th grade for their graduation requirement.

### Concordant Scores

Students who have not reached success in passing the FSA ELA may pursue other avenues to meet their graduation requirement. The ACT and the SAT can both be used as concordant tests. On the ACT, students must have a Reading score of 19. Those wishing to use the new SAT (as of Spring 2016), will need a 430 on the new Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.

### Format of the Questions

Students respond to items in multiple ways, including creating graphs, writing extended responses, and using other interactive features. The various question types are designed to assess higher-order thinking skills and offer diverse ways for students to show what they know and can do. More information can be found on the FSA Portal under the Students and Families Tab at: <http://fsassessments.org/>.

### Understanding the Scores

The scoring reports consist of a raw score, a scale score, achievement level, and a breakdown of the points earned in the reporting categories. Students must take both the Writing and the Reading assessment in order to receive a score.

The Writing score contributes 10 raw score points to the overall FSA ELA total raw score. The Writing is scored

by a 10 point rubric using 3 categories: Purpose, Focus, and Organization, Evidence and Elaboration, and a final category of Conventions and Mechanics.

Patterned scoring is used on the Reading portion of the assessment which includes both the number and the difficulty of the questions answered. Furthermore, each question will carry weight towards the overall score which is dependent upon the difficulty of the question.

### Example of Student Report

**THE FLORIDA STANDARDS ASSESSMENT**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GRADE 4 SCORE REPORT**

1. **STUDENT INFORMATION**  
 NAME: JOSE, JAMES  
 SID: XXXXXX1238  
 SCHOOL: DEMO SCHOOL (9999)  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT: DEMO DISTRICT (99)  
 SPRING 2016

2. **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**  
 The Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) are the statewide assessments in Florida. They are one of many tools our state's educators use to measure your student's mastery of the content that will be needed to be prepared for the next grade. This report is designed to provide you with insight into your student's performance so that you can continue supporting your student. If you have questions about this report, please contact your student's teacher or principal.  
 For resources to help your student better understand the Florida Standards, including materials, visit [FloridaStandards.org](http://FloridaStandards.org). For resources to help your student better understand the FSA, including practice tests, please visit [www.fsassessments.org](http://www.fsassessments.org).

3. **YOUR STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE ON THE 4TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT**  
**PERFORMANCE LEVEL**  
 Students who score in Level 4 demonstrate proficiency in the Florida Standards for their grade. They are likely to excel in the next grade.  
 5 312  
 4 340  
 3 358  
 2 376  
 1 394  
 328

4. **YOUR STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE DETAILS**  
 Number of points earned by your student in each reporting category on this assessment.

Reporting Category	Points Earned	Points Possible
Key Ideas and Details	7	11
Craft and Structure	8	10
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	7	13
Language and Editing	4	8
Text-based Writing	2	10

5. **YOUR STUDENT'S PERFORMANCE COMPARED**  
 Percentage of students in each Performance Level in your district and the state.

	District	State	Florida
Level 5	20%	20%	20%
Level 4	20%	20%	20%
Level 3	20%	20%	20%
Level 2	20%	20%	20%
Level 1	20%	20%	20%

The sample shown gives an idea of how the scores are provided. Each grade level has a scale score range that aligns to the performance level. For 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade the following ranges are set:

Achievement Level and Scale Score Range Grade 9				
1	2	3	4	5
276-327	328-342	343-354	355-369	370-407
Achievement Level and Scale Score Range Grade 10				
1	2	3	4	5
284-333	334-349	350-361	362-377	378-412

Passing the Grade 10 FSA ELA will satisfy the graduation requirement.

### Spring Assessment Dates

FSA Writing Grades 8-10 & Retake	Feb. 27- Mar. 10
FSA ELA Reading Grade 10 Retake	Mar. 27- Apr. 7
FSA ELA Reading Grades 4-10	Apr. 10-May 12

- \*Individual grade level testing times within the testing windows are being scheduled at this time.
- \*Students in the cohort needing the FCAT will be tested during March 27 – April 7.

## Spring SAT and ACT Test Dates

SAT	
Test Administration	Registration Deadline
March 1, 2017 <i>School-Based offering administered to all Juniors for free</i>	Completed at school
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017

Late registration deadline dates can be found online at the below website. There is an additional fee for late registrations. <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

ACT	
Test Administration	Registration Deadline
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017

Late registration deadline dates can also be found at the below website. Additional fees do apply. <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/taking-the-test.html>

## Student Textbook and Fees

Textbooks are an integral part to our students' educational experience here at Leesburg High School. Textbooks not only are an important resource for our students to access during the learning process, but they also provide support to our teachers and parents. Currently the district has mandated that we tighten our oversight with the disbursement and collection of textbooks, lab fees, media fees and any other outstanding fines or fees.

**If a student loses or damages a textbook beyond reasonable normal usage, he/she shall be assessed the cost for replacing the lost or damaged textbook.** (Textbooks cost as little as \$70 and as much as \$130)

The failure to collect for the cost of the lost/damaged textbook, lab fees, media fees and any other outstanding fines or fees may result in the suspension of the student from participating in extracurricular activities including, but not limited to:

- Athletic events
- Performances (band, chorus, etc.)
- Homecoming Activities
- Senior Activities (prom, picnics, graduation, etc.)

*Please share this important information with your children so that they understand their responsibility regarding textbooks and outstanding fees.*

If you have any questions or would like to know if your student has debt please contact Mrs. Allison Auld at (352)787-5047 x 7013 or e-mail her at [aulda@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:aulda@lake.k12.fl.us)



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Lake Technical College is a public, post-secondary institution that is accredited by The Commission on Occupational Education, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, Georgia, 30350, 770.396.3898, www.council.org; The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033; Advanced (formerly SAC/CS/CAS) Alpharetta Office, 9115 Westside Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30009 888.413.3669. Financial Aid may be available to those who qualify. Many programs are approved for VA. Lake Technical College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.



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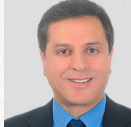
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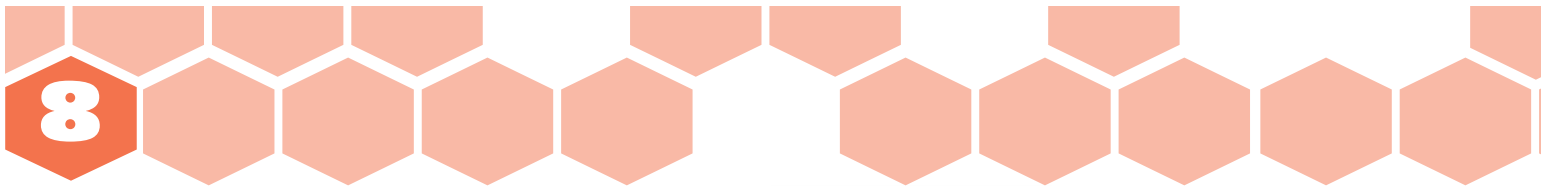
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# Leesburg High School

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## New Football Coach

Dear Parents,

I am excited to come back to Leesburg High School in the capacity of Head Football Coach and Faculty member. I worked at LHS from 2002-2014 as a teacher in the Exceptional Student Education and Physical Education departments. I also coached football, girls' basketball, softball, and track and field. My goal is to provide our young men with life skills presented through football.

In my time as Head Girls' Basketball Coach we compiled a record of 224 wins and 85 losses. The girls won 3 regional championships and advanced to 3 final fours. Many of our young ladies earned basketball scholarships to colleges and universities. The thing that I am most proud of is that 100% of our players who finished our program attended college.

It is my goal to have the same type of success in football and provide an environment that gives our young men the tools necessary to be successful men in our community. Despite the negative publicity that LHS sometimes receives, I find our school to be a great learning center for the children of Leesburg. I look forward to working with your children and I promise that they will be in the presence of quality men who will strive to provide them with the best coaching and guidance possible.

Our "We Not Me" philosophy will teach the value of teamwork and sacrifice for the benefit of the team. I am so excited to be back at Leesburg High School which is the best school in the state of Florida.

Sincerely,  
Mark Q. Oates



## Scholastic Art Winners

Congratulations to the following students for winning awards in the Regional Scholastic Art Competition. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12.

**Gold key:**  
highest award  
advancing  
to National  
competition:  
Shelby Cotta  
Kara Funke  
Lizzy Burry

**Silver Key:**  
Makayla  
Cockerham

**Honorable  
Mention  
Awards:**  
Lizzy Burry  
Sayde Cortez  
Shelby Cotta  
Jordan Malloy  
Nick Mull  
Claries Ocasio  
Jocelyn Tadlock  
Gelacio Rico

We are so proud of Ms. Melissa Padilla and our winners!