



**CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

**VALEDICTORIANS**  
**SALUTATORIANS**  
**STAR STUDENTS**  
**CLASS OF 2022**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022**

**11:00 AM**

**GEORGIA AQUARIUM OCEANS BALLROOM**

246 Ivan Allen Jr Blvd., NW  
Atlanta, GA 30313











## Eshé P. Collins

**BOARD CHAIR, ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

As Chair of the Atlanta Board of Education and on behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate you for being shining examples in our community!

Each of you are academic leaders and have set the standard for which all APS students strive. You stayed the course in the middle of a pandemic navigating changes in the learning environment. The dedication and hard work you gave to your studies have paid off, as you have been selected as 2022 Valedictorians, Salutatorians or STAR Students of your respective schools. Your outstanding academic achievements are laudable, and the doors of opportunity are vast. As you begin the next chapter of your lives, stay focused and continue to learn from every challenge and experience – past, present and future.

As you look ahead to the future, remember your parents, friends, teachers, counselors, advisors, mentors, community leaders, and principals who played an important role in helping you get to this milestone in your lives. I charge you all to reach back and lift those who are following in your footsteps as each of you have left an indelible mark on your school community. I also charge you to choose your paths wisely and surround yourself with positive people who will help you realize your dreams.

Take time to celebrate and enjoy these prestigious accomplishments and know that we are rooting for your continued success. Again, congratulations and best wishes to you all on your future endeavors!

Best,



## Lisa N. Herring

**SUPERINTENDENT, ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dear Valedictorians, Salutatorians and STAR Students:

You have demonstrated the commitment to far exceed the basic requirements of graduation and to excel. To our exemplars of the Class of 2022, let me offer my sincerest congratulations!

When it comes to what's next, I want to remind you that you already have all the tools needed to achieve your goals. This milestone moment is proof of it. Use this as a reflection point while you continue to find your purpose. I believe in placing a premium on the future, and I encourage you to venture into the future with great boldness as you seek that purpose. Regardless of what road you choose to travel, do so with an expectation of victory. Do so with an expectation of overcoming challenges and obstacles. Do so with the expectation that you will emerge as a clear winner. In this moment, you have proven to yourself that you can do anything.

Winning takes strength, so run your race strategically. Pace yourself. Winning requires planning, it requires study and preparation. APS has challenged you through study and preparation. Allow that to serve as a building block for the next phase of life. Remember -- your success does not belong to you alone. Your success reinforces the love you received in the home. It's a source of pride for the greater community. And equally important, it inspires someone younger than you who has yet to reach this same milestone. Yes, you are already an inspiration to others!

As someone who believes in you, I challenge you to continue to inspire those in your orbit and beyond. Your choice of academic study, career path and other pursuits carries with it the potential to be a blessing to others. This is one of the greatest rewards of life, to "do good as you do well." The seeds you plant will produce a harvest greater than what you can see or imagine at this moment. I'd like to close with a quote from someone who lived their life beyond themselves, beyond what they could see or imagine, especially considering the difficult period in which they lived.

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." – Harriet Tubman

Yours in Service,

# Valedictorians and Salutatorians

The Atlanta Board of Education permits each high school, including individual small schools comprised of educational complexes to identify a senior as Valedictorian and one as Salutatorian in accordance with administrative regulations set forth by the Superintendent. They are chosen at the end of the first semester of the senior year. The eligible student must have been enrolled in the respective high school from which he or she graduates by the end of the first semester of the junior year.

The numerical grading system is used by Atlanta Public Schools as required by the State Board of Education. Class rank, as shown on the transcript, is calculated using numerical grades and is considered final and official once a student completes all graduation requirements. The averages of the valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2022 are based on the weighted system listed in the numeric grade average summary on the transcript.

## STAR Students

The Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program honors Georgia's outstanding high school seniors and the teachers who have been most instrumental in their academic development. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) was selected in 1994 by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the state STAR program in association with the Chamber and the Georgia Department of Education.

To obtain the STAR nomination for the Class of 2022, high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date of the two-part SAT taken on any date through and including November 6, 2021 and be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class at the end of Junior year, based on grade point average.

# 2022 Event Program

## Presiding

Deidre Dukes  
Anchor/Reporter, Fox 5 Atlanta

## Musical Prelude and Lunch

Midtown High School Jazz Band  
Mr. Artis Stanton, Director

## Introduction

Daniel Hermonstine, Valedictorian  
Daniel M. Therrell High School

## Welcome

Deidre Dukes  
Anchor/Reporter, Fox 5 Atlanta

## Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

Treasure Evans  
Coretta Scott King Young Women's  
Leadership Academy

## Occasion

Ms. Eshè P. Collins, Chair  
Atlanta Board of Education

## Introduction of Superintendent

Annie Laster, Valedictorian  
Midtown High School

## Challenge to Honorees

Dr. Lisa N. Herring, Superintendent  
Atlanta Public Schools

## Presentation of Honorees

Ms. Anita Williams, Chief of Schools  
Atlanta Public Schools

## Video Presentation

Class of 2022 Valedictorians,  
Salutatorians, STAR Students

## Awards and Recognitions

Superintendent, APS Board Chair,  
High School Principals

## Class of 2022 Special Presentation

Milan Capoor, Valedictorian  
North Atlanta High School

## Closing Remarks/ Acknowledgments

Dr. Isaac Sparks, Jr., Program Director  
Atlanta Public Schools



# Deidra Dukes

ANCHOR/REPORTER, FOX 5 ATLANTA

When Deidra Dukes is not reporting the big story from the field, you can watch her anchor the weekend editions of FOX 5 News at 6 p.m., 10 p.m. and 11 p.m.

A member of the FOX 5 family since 2005, Deidra, a California native, earned her B.A. in Communications at Chico State (Go Wildcats!). She got her first big break in television as an anchor-reporter in Fresno and Redding. From the sunny West Coast, she headed east to do general assignment reporting at Pittsburgh's WPXI-TV. Three years later, Atlanta viewers first saw Deidra reporting for cross-town rival WSB-TV. She made the leap to FOX 5 News in 2005.

Every television station needs reporters who can handle any type of story. From criminal cases to City Hall to the just plain unpredictable, Deidra goes the extra mile for every assignment! She is most proud of her contributions to coverage of metro Atlanta's biggest stories, such as the Fulton County Courthouse shootings.

Since moving to Atlanta, Deidra has involved herself in a number of community programs, working closely with groups such as the Junior League of Atlanta, the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists, and as an adviser to the American Red Cross Minority Recruitment Program. Deidra and her son make their home in south Fulton County.

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# Charles Wessinger

## VALEDICTORIAN

Charlie Samuel Wessinger was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Margaret and Sam Wessinger. He attributes his academic success to his parents and teachers for going out of their way to be encouraging and supportive and for ingraining within him a desire to learn. Charlie is the captain of his school's Quiz Bowl team, which he helped qualify for their first national tournament. He has also played for his school's soccer team, and has served two years on Student Government as a grade representative. One of his favorite quotes is "always make new mistakes," as this reminds him to continuously push himself to improve and better himself.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Undecided

### CAREER GOAL

Undecided

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar with distinction, High Honor Roll, Principal's List, National Honor Society, High School Award for Latin, Governor's Honors Nominee, State Geography Bee Finalist



# Mary Adams

## SALUTATORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Mary Catherine (MC) Adams was born in Knoxville, Tennessee to Chad and Leah Adams. MC attributes her success to her parents, saying they have always encouraged her to do well in school, but they have also given her space to motivate herself. MC is the Captain of the Atlanta Classical Dance Company, the Secretary of the Key Club, and runs in Varsity Cross Country. She is a member of National Honor Society, is consistently recognized on High Honor Roll or the Principal's List, received Summa Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam, and scored high enough on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test to qualify as a National Merit Semifinalist. One of MC's favorite quotes is from Maya Angelou: "My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." MC reflects that she doesn't just want to live, she wants to have an amazing life. She works her hardest to thrive in whatever environment she's been placed in with grace and gratitude. MC plans to major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, with a career working with Marine Life.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

### CAREER GOAL

Working with Marine Life

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

National Honor Society, High Honor Roll, National Latin Exam, Summa Cum Laude

### STAR TEACHER

Mr. Lawton Hawkins



# Antoni Juarez

VALEDICTORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Antoni Juarez was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Leonardo Juarez and Noemi Hernandez. A lifelong learner with a bright future, Antoni has used the wisdom and hope instilled in him by his parents and teachers to achieve success in life. Antoni has placed in competitions throughout high school with the Technology Student Association, Academic Decathlon, and math team. This year, he is a member of the National Honors Society, Beta Club, and a high school bioinformatics researcher at Georgia Tech through Project ENGAGES. One of his favorite quotes is from Jordan Peterson: "Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today." This quote has taught him to celebrate all victories in life and to prioritize self-growth. In the future, Antoni plans to become a data scientist and business owner.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

## INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science

## CAREER GOAL

Data Scientist/Business Owner

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Gates Scholarship Finalist, Questbridge College Prep Scholar, National College Match Finalist, College Board: AP Scholar and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, Junior Marshal, Advanced Technical Academic Achievement Award



STAR TEACHER Ms. Krista Sanders



# Corissa Ross

SALUTATORIAN

Corissa Ross was born in Carrollton, Georgia to Melisa Ross and the late Rodney Spear. Seeing the present and striving for the future, Corissa took the hardships she faced as a child and used them to not only build herself up, but her dreams for success as well. Corissa is an active member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Science National Honor Society.

One of her favorite quotes comes from her old teacher, Dr. Parker, which states, "It's lonely at the top." This quote has taught her that the road to success is not a straight one, but instead a road filled with curves and detours. Corissa's career goal is to become a Clinical Psychiatrist. She plans on opening her own facility where people can feel safe and share with people who will understand them.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

## INTENDED MAJOR

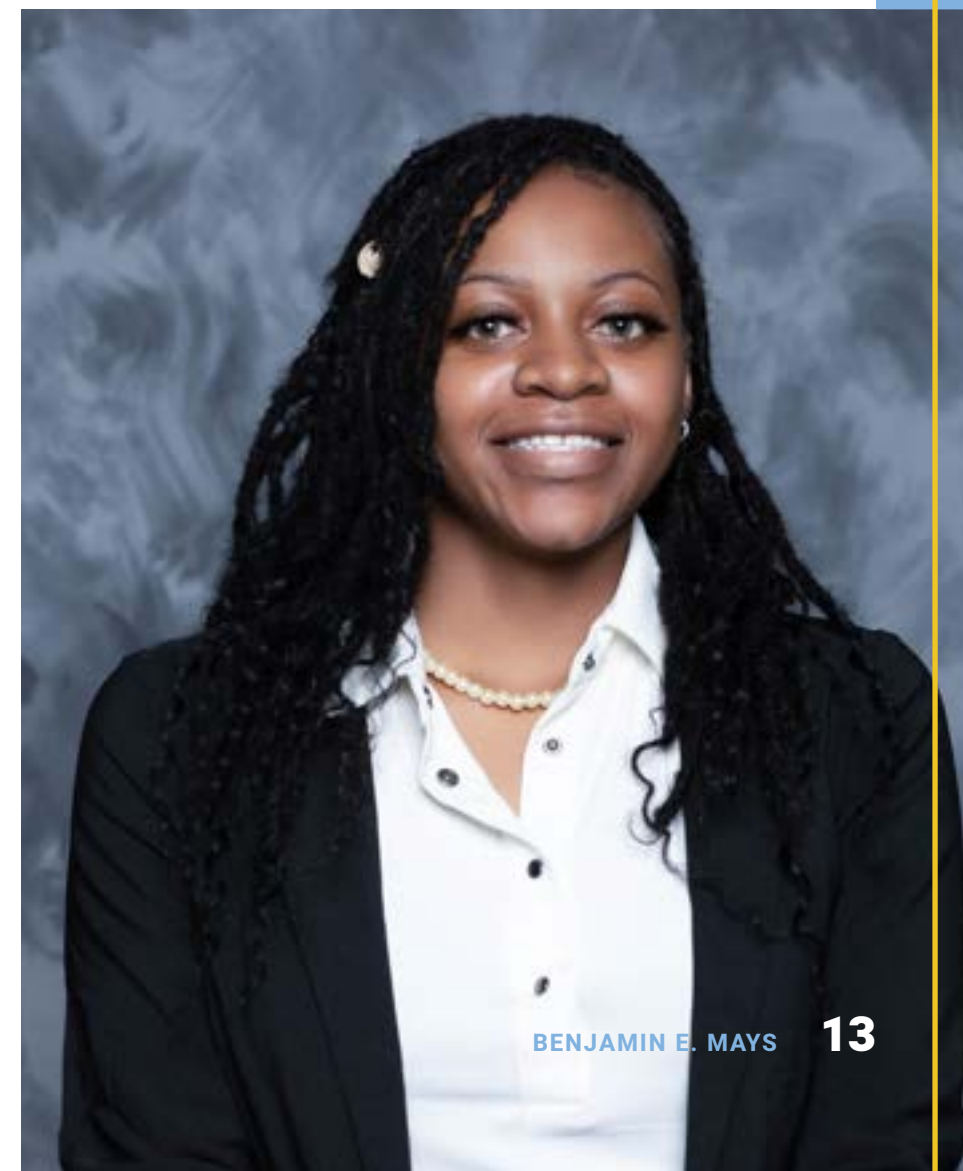
Psychology

## CAREER GOAL

Clinical Psychiatrist

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Top 10%, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Science National Honor Society, Principal's award





# Amani Bedwa

## VALEDICTORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Amani Bedwa was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Lovetta Durham-Martin and Robert Martin. At a young age, the importance of education and the need to be a lifelong learner was instilled in him. Amani is currently a Project Engages Scholar where he conducts research at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also a Dual Enrollment Student at Georgia State University, where he has been newly inducted to The National Society of Collegiate Scholars. While at B.E.S.T. Academy Amani has competed on the Varsity Swimming and Cross-Country teams. He was a member of B.E.S.T. Academy's award-winning Engineering Team. A quote that is significant to Amani comes from Paulo Coelho, "The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times". This quote is relevant to Amani because he believes no matter how many times he falls, if he continues to try, success is always possible. Amani's goal is to graduate with a degree in Computer Engineering and eventually become a teacher to inspire more Black students to become engineers.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

### INTENDED MAJOR

Electrical Computer Engineering

### CAREER GOAL

Computer Engineer/ Teacher

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Valedictorian, Early College Scholar, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Principal's List, US Air Force Certificate of Achievement, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars Achievement Award recipient



**STAR TEACHER** Mr. Greg Beach



# DeCarlos McKinney

## SALUTATORIAN

DeCarlos Mckinney hails from Chicago, Illinois, and resides in Atlanta, Ga. As an active senior at B.E.S.T. Academy, DeCarlos serves as SGA President and is a prestigious member of the Student Advisory Council that serves more than 50,000 students in Atlanta Public Schools. As a student-athlete, he participates in track and cross country and has been honored in several categories in the State. He has made a formal commitment to attend Morehouse College.

DeCarlos' aspirations include entrepreneurship and marketing strategies. His passions include civic engagement, social media influences, beauty, LGBTQIA+ rights, and pop culture. As an outspoken, ambitious young man, DeCarlos believes in setting an example for others to follow, and lives by the adage that "True Confidence leaves no room for jealousy." by Nicki Minaj

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Morehouse College

### INTENDED MAJOR

Business Administration

### CAREER GOAL

Serial Entrepreneur and Business Consultant

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Top 10% scholars  
A/B Honor Roll





# Angel Walker

## VALEDICTORIAN

Angel Janece Walker was born in Birmingham, AL. Angel was raised by her Aunt, Marshall Hooks, and Uncle, Melvin Williams. A determined intellect, who has valued academics and extracurricular activities since she was a six-year-old girl. Angel has participated in Girl Scouts, dance, cheerleading, soccer, softball, and her high school varsity tennis team for three years now. She also is a service coordinator of the National Honor Society, an active member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and Early College. Angel's drive for success started within her family and her community. Her milestones were always achieved by the bible verse of Deuteronomy 28:13, which states, "The LORD will make you the leader and not the follower, for you are the head and not the tail." This verse keeps her grounded, unique, and optimistic. Angel plans on becoming an anesthesiologist. Ultimately, creating her own enterprise in the healthcare field.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Biological Sciences/Health Sciences/  
Biomedical Sciences

### CAREER GOAL

Anesthesiologist

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

The Heart Award  
Principal's List  
Top 10%  
Honor Roll  
National Honor Society



# Evelyn Navarrete

## SALUTATORIAN

Evelyn Navarrete was born in Los Banos, California to Irene Navarrete. Evelyn has used her knowledge and determination instilled in her by her parents to achieve success in academia. Evelyn is a part of the National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, The Book Club and is a student ambassador at her school. One of Evelyn's favorite quotes is "La mejor manera de hacer tus sueños realidad es despertar" which translates "The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up".

This quote has taught her that life will never be easy and that she should never give up no matter the outcome. Evelyn plans to attend college to pursue a career as a dental hygienist. In the future she plans to open her own restaurant with her sister.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Dental Hygiene

### CAREER GOAL

Dental Hygienist

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar, Honor Roll, Top 10%,  
Principal's Award, National Honor  
Society & Ms. Early College  
Georgia State University



# Myah Crowell

## VALEDICTORIAN

Myah Crowell was born and raised in Atlanta, GA by Michael and Myric Crowell. From an early age, her parents instilled in her the value of education. Her daily mantra is “practice, practice, practice, the 3Ps” to mastery and “if you are early, you are on time, and if you are on time, you are late.” She thanks her Dad for the first one, while the other is credited to Dr. B.E. Mays. These words became the foundation for her drive and ambition. She is a high school researcher at Georgia Tech and Emory University with Project ENGAGES and is in the dual enrollment program at Georgia State University. Myah served as the Inaugural Vice President of Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, the fundraising Chair of the National Art Honor Society, the Captain of Drew's Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl team along with playing varsity soccer and running varsity cross country. Myah aspires to become a biomedical engineer.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Brandeis University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Biological Sciences/Biomedical Engineering; a dual degree program (MA in engineering from Columbia University)

### CAREER GOAL

Biomedical Engineer

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Posse Scholar; Project ENGAGES Scholar; Georgia Certificate of Merit c/o 2022 (top 5%); 2021 Global Seal of Biliteracy; Dr. E. Paul Getaz Scholarship for Academic Excellence; Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl District Winner (2x); SCAD Hong Kong scholarship; Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Grant and 2021 Golden Beaver Award by MIT BeaverWorks recipient; Provisional Patent holder; National Honor Society; 2021 Silver Medalist at the Atlanta City Regional Science & Engineering Fair; National Beta Club; Governor's Honor Program Finalist in Engineering; (MS)<sup>2</sup>



# Alexandria Sweeny

## SALUTATORIAN

Alexandria Sweeny was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Mark Sweeny and Angela Sweeny. Alexandria uses the support from her family to strive for personal and academic excellence. She has been a member of Drew's Varsity Cross Country team and Varsity Soccer Team for three years. One of her greatest accomplishments has been her commitment to her school's 2020-2021 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam. Alexandria also serves as a Naval Sea Cadet Corps Midshipman. A quote that has inspired her is from Shonda Rhimes: “Dreams are lovely. But they are just dreams. Fleeting, ephemeral, pretty. But dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It's hard work that makes things happen. It's hard work that creates change.” Alexandria has always had big dreams, and has worked tirelessly in order to reach her goals. Alexandria aspires to become a Biomaterials Developer. She plans to study stem cell regeneration and neurodegenerative diseases at Georgia Institute of Technology.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

### INTENDED MAJOR

Biomedical Engineering

### CAREER GOAL

Biomaterials Developer

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar, Top 5%, National Honor Society, Cadet of the Year (USNSCC), Provisional Patent





# Jason Lin

## STAR STUDENT

Jason Lin was born in Brooklyn, New York to XiuMin Li and TingFang Lin. As a first-generation scholar, Jason believes that knowledge and hard work are the fundamental building blocks behind every success story. Jason is the Vice President of the National Honor Society, a QuestBridge finalist, and holds a provisional patent from his work as a Lemelson-MIT grant recipient. He is also the team captain of varsity esports and a semifinalist for the National Beta Scholarship Program.

One of his favorite quotes is by Lao Tzu: "When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you." This quote has inspired Jason to be confident and achieve greatness while maintaining humility. Jason aspires to become a quantitative analyst and entrepreneur, and plans to study computer science and finance in college.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science & Finance

### CAREER GOAL

Quantitative Analyst &  
Entrepreneur

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

QuestBridge Finalist,  
Beta Semi-Finalist, Lemelson-MIT  
Grantee, and National Honors  
Society Vice-President



**STAR TEACHER** Mr. William Morrison



# Alexandria Smith

## VALEDICTORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Alexandria Smith was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to parents Estrolita Askew-Smith and Christopher Smith Sr. Alex is inspired by her family's grit to overcome circumstances, which motivates her to take advantage of the opportunities that are provided to her. Alexandria is the president of the Student Government Association, National STEM Honor Society, and a member of CSKYWLA's Dance Theater. Alex often uses the quote "Today is a tomorrow you were worried about yesterday" to ease her mind when she is overwhelmed. Alex plans to attend Emory University, major in computer science, with the goal of becoming a data analyst.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Emory University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science

### CAREER GOAL

Data Analyst

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar, Top AP Student,  
CSK Top Ten Percentile of Class,  
Principal's List, & GSU and Albany  
State University Dual Enrollment/  
Early College Scholar



**STAR TEACHER** Dr. Juliette Johnson



# Treasure Evans

## SALUTATORIAN

Treasure Evans was born in Decatur, GA to Shawnta Evans. Treasure has been able to use her hurdles and triumphs as a means of obtaining success in both academics and sports via hard effort and determination. Treasure is a participant of the Early College Program at Georgia State University, a member of the National Honor Society, and serves as an active member of the Student Government Association. She has been an illustrious member of The Academy Marching Band for approximately seven years. One of her favorite quotes is by well-known philosopher Aristotle: "Everything happens for a reason". This quote has taught her how to always find a solution, despite the trials and tribulations she may have to endure. Treasure's career goal is to become a Licensed Holistic Psychologist. In the future, she plans to create her own non-profit organization that focuses on providing free mental health resources to minorities of at least 25 states.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Kennesaw State University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Psychology

### CAREER GOAL

Licensed Holistic Psychologist

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Top 10%, National Honor Society, Principal's Award, & Georgia State University Early College Scholar



# Daniel Hermonstine

## VALEDICTORIAN

Daniel Hermonstine was born in Georgetown, Guyana to Pastor David Hermonstine and Dianne Hermonstine. A scholarly athlete with a bright future, Daniel has used the humility and determination instilled in him by his parents to achieve success in academia and sports. Daniel is the president of the National Honor Society, president of the National Beta Club, serves as Vice Chair of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and plays varsity soccer. One of his favorite quotes is by Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson: "If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." This quote has kept him grounded as he has worked tirelessly, pursuing greatness not only in the classroom but also around the community. Daniel has many career goals, one of them being to become a United States Senator. He plans to focus on advocating for equal educational rights and opportunity throughout the American school system.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Public Policy and Political Science

### CAREER GOAL

U.S. Senator

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

GATES Scholarship Finalist, Ron Brown Scholarship Finalist, QuestBridge Scholar Project ENGAGES Scholar, U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Nominee, Principal's List Scholar, Top 1%, Recipient JROTC Scottish Rite to Freemasonry Award





# Evan Means

**SALUTATORIAN AND STAR STUDENT**

Evan Lamar Means was born in Atlanta, GA to Monica and Eric Means, Sr. With the infinite support of his family, friends and educators, Evan has excelled throughout high school with a GPA of 4.2. At Therrell High School, Evan has maintained exemplary grades in Advanced Placement and Honors courses while enrolled in the Early College Program at Georgia State University. Evan's love of digital technology makes him the go-to scholar for friends and family when technical assistance is required. His favorite quote from Serena Williams states, "I really think a champion is defined not by their wins but how they can recover when they fall." These words remind Evan that failure is inevitably tied to success but how one recovers is what is most important. Evan plans to attend The Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall and major in Computer Science. His goal is to pursue his passion as a Software Engineer.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

## INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science

## CAREER GOAL

Software Engineer

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Principal's List, AP Scholar, Georgia State University Early College Program Honor Student, National Honor Society, National Beta Club



**STAR TEACHER** Ms. Fatamia Stephens



# Raymond Bedell

**VALEDICTORIAN**

Raymond Bedell was born in Decatur, Georgia to Ms. Francina Hoard and the late Mr. Waymon Bedell. An academically achieved student, Raymond from a young age was taught about the importance of education and always strives to learn more. Raymond is the Vice President of his school's Student Government Association, a member of the Go-Team, Tech Team, and the National Society of High School Scholars. Raymond was also crowned the 2020-2021 Mr. Junior and 2021 - 2022 Mr. STEAM.

One of his favorite quotes is by Lee Brown: "To be successful, you must be willing to do the things today others won't do in order to have the things tomorrow others won't have." This quote has taught him to go the extra mile in everything he does even when others aren't willing. Raymond's career goal is to attend the University of Georgia to become a Mechanical Engineer.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

## INTENDED MAJOR

Mechanical Engineering

## CAREER GOAL

Mechanical Engineer

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar  
Principal's List  
Achieve Atlanta



# Jeremiah Williams

## SALUTATORIAN

Jeremiah Williams was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Angel Williams and Dwayne Johnson (Deceased). A top scholar that used the pain from his past as fuel for his future, Jeremiah was a part of the Student Government Association in 9th and 10th grade. He also joined the debate club in 9th grade and has been a part of the marching band for his entire high school career.

One of his favorite quotes by Stuart Heatherington "How heavy is this glass of water?" has taught him about how to change his perception and let go of worry. Jeremiah plans on attending Georgia State University to major in Fine arts and Music. He hopes to become an entrepreneur and own a restaurant with black-owned business where he can sell his mothers' home-cooked food and continue her legacy.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia State University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Fine Arts/Music

### CAREER GOAL

Entrepreneur

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar

Honor Roll

Top 10% Principals Award



# Toni Reid

## VALEDICTORIAN

Toni Reid was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Tamekia Jones and Antonio Reid. A community-driven scholar-athlete, Toni has a drive and a thirst for knowledge that was instilled in her by her parents at a young age. Throughout high school, Toni played volleyball, basketball, and tennis. She is currently a REACH scholar, GATE and honor student, senior class secretary, FBLA president, and company commander of her JROTC class. She is also apart of her school's early college program at Georgia State University where she has earned over 15 credit hours. One of Toni's favorite quotes was told to her by a graduate advisor at Early College: "Comparison is the thief of confidence." This quote has taught her to always appreciate what she has in life and everything else will come in due time. Toni's goal is to become a criminal investigator. In the future, she plans on traveling the world until she finds the place she wants to call home.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

The University of Georgia or Hampton University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Criminal Justice

### CAREER GOAL

Criminal Investigator

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar, Honors Scholar, Top 10%, Principal's Award, Member of multiple honor societies





# Zariah Taylor

**SALUTATORIAN AND STAR STUDENT**

Zariah Taylor was born in Boston, Massachusetts to mother Latarsha Taylor. After moving to Atlanta in the 6th grade, a particularly rough adjustment period inspired Zariah to use her struggles as a motivation to become successful. In school, Zariah has maintained high marks and earned college credits from Atlanta Metropolitan State College through her school's dual enrollment program. Outside of class, Zariah is the President and Founder of her school's Publications club, has published over 20 articles as a staff writer for VOX ATL, and has been recognized with awards from the Equal Justice Initiative and the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network. To describe her journey, Zariah would use the quote, "I could let these dream killers kill my self-esteem, or use my arrogance as the steam to power my dreams." In the fall, Zariah will attend Spelman College in the hopes of earning her Bachelor's Degree in Documentary Film making.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Spelman College

## INTENDED MAJOR

Documentary Film making

## CAREER GOAL

Media Production

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Rising Star Award from the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, 2nd place in the EJI Racial Justice Essay Contest, Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, Post-It Note Award from VOX ATL, Honor Roll

## STAR TEACHER

Mrs. Brooke Shine-Levine



# Brian Akomeah-Sakyi

**VALEDICTORIAN**

Brian Akomeah-Sakyi was born in Accra, Ghana, to Prince Akomeah-Sakyi and Mawusi Agbeko and migrated to the United States at the age of 13. Having experienced living on two continents, Brian was exposed to two different cultures and opportunities that both Accra and Atlanta had to offer. When he came to the U.S., he had to overcome cultural differences in order to navigate societal norms. Brian always had his parents and school counselors to encourage and remind him of what he is working towards and that he should not give up. In 2019, Brian had to adjust to virtual learning where he quickly learned accountability. "Inaction is a slow death", a quote by Joey Schweiter, made Brian realize that regardless of whether you face what needs to be done or not, you will have to endure and transgress adversity to later on enjoy a fulfilling life. He had to choose to not make excuses and continue to excel. He aspires to be a Computer Scientist and looks forward to enhancing his community.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

## INTENDED MAJOR

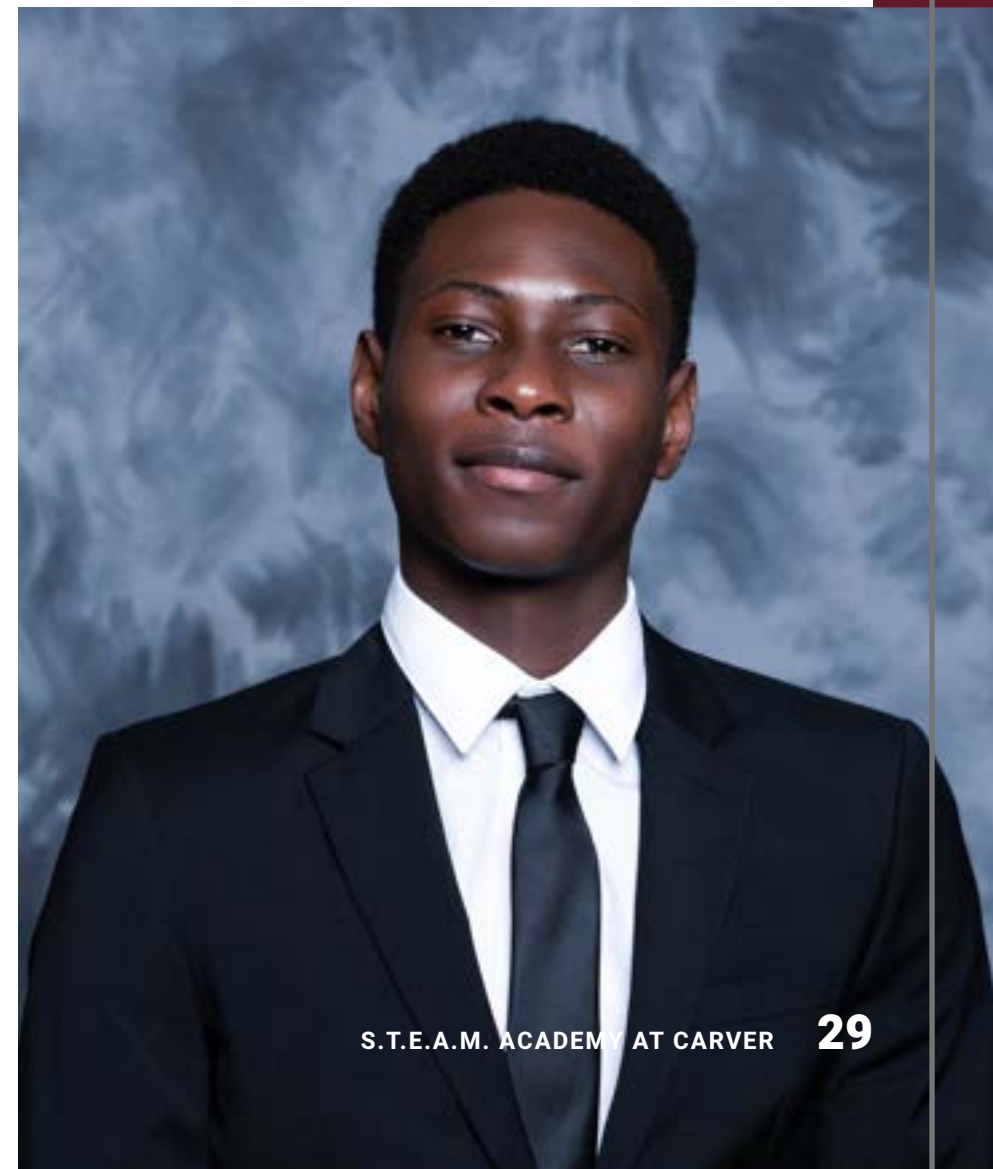
Computer Science

## CAREER GOAL

Computer Scientist and/or Biologist

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

STEAM Academy at Carver Principal's Award, Honor Roll, Top 10%, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Class 3A 2021 State Football Championship Runner-up Kicker



# Kyshawn Forbes

## SALUTATORIAN

Kyshawn Forbes was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Juddie Green. His early passion for success, coupled with his promise to his mother for finishing high school with honors, has been the driving force behind Kyshawn's success. As he entered high school, Kyshawn soon realized that there were two paths he could take, but only one would set him on a trajectory of fulfilling the promise he made to his mother. He then began to actively participate in experiences throughout his high school career that exposed him to rewarding opportunities, like band. In the band, he learned time management skills and discipline. Although school has not always been easy, Kyshawn continued to work diligently. A quote that he lives by and repeats every morning is, "Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world." As the first person in his family to go to college, Kyshawn pushes himself to be successful every day. He believes that God, his family, and supporters are on his side, which will always push him to finish strong.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Tennessee State University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Graphic Arts/Design & Photography

### CAREER GOAL

Visual Designer and Photographer

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Next Generation Men & Women Class of 2022 President, Honor Roll, Top 10%, Beta Club, National Honor Society, Panelist for Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent – Summer 2021, Trio, Class of 2022 Yearbook Lead Photo Editor and Assistant Layout Designer



# Jala Birtha

## VALEDICTORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Jala Birtha was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Alisha and Jarrod Birtha. With her naturally competitive nature and hunger for success, Jala has cultivated the knowledge and tenacity needed to become the prosperous woman she sees herself being in the future. A member since her freshman year, she currently is the President of the National Beta Club. She also serves as the Vice President of both the National Math Honor Society and National Social Studies Honor Society. Jala's participation in extracurriculars doesn't end there, as she is an active member of the Math Competition Team, National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Spanish Club, and Chess Club. In addition to her extracurricular activities, she still manages to tutor her peers in an effort to help them recover credits and pass Advanced Placement Courses/Exams. A quote that Jala lives by day to day comes from Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no try." This quote motivates Jala to never do anything half-heartedly, no matter the gravity of the situation. Aspiring to major in Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering and become a Aerospace Engineer in the astronautical industry, there's no doubt that Jala's determination will take her further than she can possibly imagine.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Aerospace Engineering

### CAREER GOAL

Aerospace Engineer

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

STAR Student, Principal's List, Harvard Book Award, Georgia Certificate of Merit, Gates Scholarship Finalist

### STAR TEACHER

Mr. Gerald Kosoff





# Haleigh Sallaway

## SALUTATORIAN

Haleigh Sallaway was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Cassandra Sallaway. Her tenacity and intelligence are displayed through her pursuit of numerous AP and Dual Enrollment courses. She is admired by the faculty and her peers for being caring, considerate and extremely helpful. Haleigh earned enough credits to graduate during her junior year, but elected to stay in school to have a full and robust high school experience. As a member of the Math, English, Science and Social Studies Honor Societies, Haleigh has also managed to carve time in her schedule to participate in extracurricular activities. Haleigh has served as a member of the Student Government Association, Spanish Club, Debate team, and managed both the volleyball and soccer teams. She is on the Dean's List at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, a Georgia Certificate of Merit Finalist, a speaker for Peer Leadership and other organizations. Haleigh aspires to major in biochemistry, with the goal of becoming a Biomedical Scientist and a pharmaceutical company owner. Her daily motivation is guided by the wise words of Angela Davis, "I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change.... I'm changing the things I cannot accept."

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Biochemistry

### CAREER GOAL

Biomedical scientist/  
pharmaceutical business owner

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Georgia Merit scholar  
Dean's list for Atlanta  
Metropolitan State College



# Madeline Davis

## VALEDICTORIAN

Madeline Davis was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Deborah Deckner-Davis and William Davis. She is inspired to succeed because of her peers and love of learning. She is a member of the Decatur City Dance Company, Nexus Apprentice. She has also participated in cross-country, swim, National Honors Society, and Beta Club. One of her favorite quotes is by James Baldwin: "Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it." This has taught her the importance of drive and dedication and to not be bothered by those saying she cannot. Madeline is majoring in math and dance at Tulane University. She hopes to become a data scientist out of college.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Tulane University

### INTENDED MAJOR

Math with a concentration in  
Statistics and Dance

### CAREER GOAL

Data Scientist

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

All A's Honor Roll, Advanced  
Placement Scholar Award, Georgia  
Chinese Language Educators  
Student of the Year, National  
Honors Society, Social Studies and  
Science Fair District Golds



# Meghan Frederick

## SALUTATORIAN

Meghan Frederick was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Jen and Tim Frederick. She has always had a love of learning and a desire to experience the world around her. Meghan is the treasurer of the National Honors Society, captain of the Cross Country team, and serves on the Senior Council. She is on the varsity cross country and track teams and volunteers as a Chinese language tutor for younger students. Steve Prefontaine once said, "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift." This is one of Meghan's favorite quotes as it encourages living in the present and giving each moment your all. Meghan hopes to work as a physical therapist for elite runners so that she can help others reach their fullest potential.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Kinesiology

### CAREER GOAL

Physical Therapist

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

2021 Governor's Honors Program Attendee, 5k School Record Holder, 3200 meter School Record Holder, AP Scholar with Distinction, Recipient of Georgia Certificate of Merit



# Ella Goode

## STAR STUDENT

Ella Goode was born to Mr. David Goode and Mrs. Susan Goode in Atlanta, Georgia. She grew up in an innovative home that fostered an atmosphere of ingenuity and creativity. An ambitious scholar with a bright future in computer science, Ella has used the adaptability and resilience instilled into her by her parents to thrive within her academic community. Ella is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as an active member of the Maynard Jackson Debate Team. Ella takes inspiration from female entrepreneur Marie Forleo with one of her favorite quotes: "The key to success is to start before you are ready." This quote encourages her to take opportunities to empower herself and others to explore their autonomy. Ella's career goal is to become a Senior Software Engineer in order to be involved in the future technology of humankind.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science

### CAREER GOAL

Senior Software Engineer

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Georgia Merit Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, National Honor Society, Principal's List, Top 10%, Honor Roll



**STAR TEACHER** Ms. Jacqueline Keeler





# Annie Laster

## VALEDICTORIAN

Annie Laster was born in Atlanta, Georgia to her parents Jill and Joe Laster, and is an older sister to Virginia and Jerry. Annie is a four year starter and captain of both the varsity volleyball and tennis teams. In 2021, she led the tennis team to the state final four, and the volleyball team to a region championship and state sweet sixteen. She also coaches a middle school club volleyball team. Her family and the girls she coaches inspire her to be the best person and student she can be. Annie loves to backpack and has hiked over 1,000 miles in fifty different national parks. She believes that “not all classrooms have four walls”. She is motivated by the beauty of nature, and wants to contribute to keeping wild places wild. She plans to major in industrial engineering and minor in Spanish.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Industrial Engineering

### CAREER GOAL

International Business

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar with Distinction,  
National Merit Commended  
Student, First Team All-Region  
Volleyball



# Duncan Tanner

## SALUTATORIAN

Duncan Tanner was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Greg and Caroline Tanner. As his parents' second-born son, Duncan used the determination instilled in him by the encouragement from his family to always try his best to achieve success in school and athletics. Duncan is captain of the varsity lacrosse team, the captain of the Public Forum Debate team, and sports editor for the school newspaper. He has played multiple varsity sports in high school including lacrosse, basketball, and golf. One of his favorite quotes is from Arnold Schwarzenegger: "You can have results or excuses. Not both." This quote has taught him to work hard for something if you want it. Duncan is undecided in career goals but enjoys calculus, economics, and Latin.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Undecided

### CAREER GOAL

Undecided

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar With Distinction  
Honor Roll  
National Honor Society



# Nathan Rachwalski

## STAR STUDENT

Nathan Rachwalski was born in Charlotte, North Carolina to Jenny and Mark Rachwalski. Always striving to be his best, Nathan has used the encouragement of his family and friends throughout his high school career to find success. Nathan is captain of both Midtown's quiz bowl team and the drones team and volunteers at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. One of his favorite quotes is from Herb Brooks (Captain of the Miracle on Ice hockey team): "Great moments are born from great opportunities." This quote has taught him to always give effort but especially when it most matters and to make the most of every moment. Nathan is interested in studying statistics, computer science, and economics in college.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Financial Engineering

### CAREER GOAL

Finance/Technology

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Governor's Honors Program, International Science Fair, National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction

### STAR TEACHER

Mr. Christopher Wharton



# Milan Capoor

## VALEDICTORIAN

Milan Capoor was born in Washington, D.C. to Tara Sweeney and Vikram Capoor. Inspired by Walt Whitman's statement "the great play goes on and you may contribute a verse," he has worked to make the most of his time in high school as a student, a leader, and a friend. Milan is the CEO and Chief Programmer of the North Atlanta High School Robotics Team, captain of the Fencing and Academic Bowl teams and the school SGA Secretary. Additionally, Milan is the former School PR Representative, two-time Class President, theater department's Head of Costumes, section leader of the North Atlanta Wind Ensemble and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Treasurer of the North Atlanta Beta Club. Outside of school, he loves cooking, sewing, reading in nature, and sitting at coffee shops. Milan will begin college this fall, to eventually earn a doctoral degree and become a professor of computer science.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

### INTENDED MAJOR

Double major in Computer Science and Philosophy

### CAREER GOAL

Professor

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Scholar Finalist, U.S. Presidential Scholars Candidate





# Riley Coogan

SALUTATORIAN

Riley Coogan was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. With the unfaltering support of his father, Michael Coogan, and sister, Malley Coogan, Riley strove to achieve excellence academically, extracurricularly, and athletically from a young age. Riley is an elected Hope Squad Ambassador, animal conservation volunteer with the Georgia Falconry Association, and active member of Mu Alpha Theta. Additionally, he is a three-sport high school athlete and starter on the varsity basketball team. One of his favorite quotes is by Plutarch: "The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be rekindled." This quote reflects his eagerness to learn and passion for self-improvement. After graduating from a college of engineering, Riley aspires to found his own successful company and improve the community of Atlanta.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

## INTENDED MAJOR

Computer Science

## CAREER GOAL

Entrepreneur

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar with Distinction,  
National Merit Scholarship  
Finalist, North Atlanta  
High School International  
Baccalaureate Student of the  
Year, Honor Roll



# Erin Hicks

STAR STUDENT

Erin Hicks was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Tara and Chris Hicks. Throughout her life, her curiosity has fueled her determination in her journey through academic, athletic, and personal endeavors. Erin is a four-year varsity athlete and captain of the North Atlanta swim team as well as an active member of Science National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Beta Club, and National Art Honors Society. One of her favorite quotes is by Socrates: "The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing." This has reminded her that there is an endless amount of knowledge in the world and to never stop striving for new information and skills. Erin's career goal for the future is to receive her master's degree in engineering and become an engineer.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Undecided

## INTENDED MAJOR

Mechanical Engineering

## CAREER GOAL

Engineer

## AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP Scholar, National Honors Society, Top  
5%, 2020 Governor's Honors Program  
Semi-finalist, Varsity Athlete



STAR TEACHER Ms. Erica Hiers



# Anaya Mitchell

## VALEDICTORIAN AND STAR STUDENT

Anaya Mitchell was born in Decatur, Georgia, to her parents, Anthony Mitchell Sr., and Marsha Mitchell. She's inspired by her parents' fortitude to push through challenges for a life you're happy with as well as one that constantly challenges you to learn. She is recognized first as the Drum major of the South Atlanta Marching band and as the Flute section leader. Anaya has remained on the Principal's list since freshman year and earned the Distinguished Learner award on the End Of Course state exams in Geometry and Algebra. She pursues her passion for Visual Arts and is the current winner of the Atlanta Public Schools District Technology fair for Graphic Design. Maya Angelou once stated, "Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space. Invite one to stay." This quote is significant because Anaya feels an exuberance for life ahead. Anaya will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology and earn both her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Computational Media and Interactive design.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

### INTENDED MAJOR

Computational Media/  
Interactive design

### CAREER GOAL

Storyboard Artist/Animator

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Top 10%, Atlanta Public Schools district Technology fair winner, Honor Roll, Drum major, Principal's list



**STAR TEACHER** Mr. Jamont Lane



# Ge'Naya Hough

## SALUTATORIAN

Ge'Naya Hough was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to Gracie Montgomery and Rachel Montgomery. Ge'Naya was raised by a village of people that helped build her confidence, love of learning, and determination to succeed, which led to her becoming the upstanding young lady we see before us. Ge'Naya has served on the S.T.E.M. Student Council, P.A.S.T. Peer Mentor Program, and is the videographer for the Boys Varsity Basketball team. She also presided as the 11th Grade President. She has been honored with the Principal's List 6 times. Her favorite motivational mantra is "doing what I have to do to get where I need to be." This mantra and life experience have taught her that being uncomfortable is okay when you know that long-term gratification awaits you. Ge'Naya's career goal is to become an Information Technology Project Manager. In the future, she plans to open her own Technology Consulting Firm.

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Georgia Institute of Technology

### INTENDED MAJOR

Information Technology Management

### CAREER GOAL

Information Technology Project Manager

### AWARDS/RECOGNITION

AP and Honors Scholar

Top 1%

Principal's List Award

Dual Pathway Completer





# Principals

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Mr. Josh Andrew

**Benjamin E. Mays**  
Dr. Mulanta Wilkins

**B.E.S.T. Academy**  
Dr. Timothy Jones

**Booker T. Washington**  
Dr. Angela Coaxum-Young

**Charles Drew Charter**  
Mr. Kendrick Myers

**Coretta Scott King Young  
Women’s Leadership Academy**  
Ms. Eulonda Washington

**Daniel M. Therrell**  
Ms. Shelly Goodrum

**Frederick Douglass**  
Ms. Forrestella Taylor

**George Washington Carver  
Early College**  
Ms. Christina Rogers

**George Washington  
Carver STEAM**  
Mr. Yusef Muhammad

**Midtown**  
Dr. Betsy Bockman

**KIPP Atlanta Collegiate**  
Mr. Arthur Washington

**Maynard Holbrook Jackson**  
Dr. Adam Danser

**North Atlanta**  
Mr. Curtis Douglass

**South Atlanta**  
Dr. Patricia Ford

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Associate Superintendent of Schools (K-12)

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Associate Superintendent of Schools (K-12)

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Associate Superintendent of Schools (K-12)

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At-Large (Seat 8)

**Mr. Jason F. Esteves**  
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Chief Operating Officer

**Ms. Nicole Lawson**  
Chief Human Resources Officer (Interim)

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Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer

**Dr. Matthew Smith**  
Chief Performance Officer

**Ms. Anita Williams**  
Chief Schools Officer

**Ms. Nina Gupta**  
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Atlanta Public Schools expresses  
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