



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

B.E.S.T. Academy at The Thomas W. Dortch Jr. Institute

Robert Williams, Principal



EAGLE Pride



The B.E.S.T. Polo Club

On October 13th, the B.E.S.T. Academy Polo Club faced off against the Congressional Polo Club in their inaugural match. Founded by Clark Atlanta University graduate, fashion designer, and former polo player Miguel Wilson, the team aims to introduce young Black kids from Atlanta to sport of kings.

The match was part of the 7th Annual Atlanta Fashion and Polo Classic, held at The Horse Mansion, Bouckaert Farm in Fairburn, GA. As the team's only game of the year, it featured exciting gameplay and highlighted the talents of players Mikel Banks, Declan Fitzpatrick, Ryland Hammond, Jayden Johnson, S'yncere Poole, Quinn Ramsey, and Caleb Choice-Sanchez.



Members of the B.E.S.T. Academy Polo Club (in red and white) and their opponents from the Congressional Polo Club (in black and gold) march onto the field to begin their match.



8th graders Ryland Hammond and Syncere Poole of the B.E.S.T. Academy Polo Club warm up with their horses during the 7th Annual Atlanta Fashion and Polo Classic.



The B.E.S.T. Academy Polo Club, alongside Parent Liaison Mrs. Stanley-Turner (L) and Principal Robert Williams (R), poses for a group shot before their inaugural polo match.



8th grader Caleb Choice-Sanchez stands for the National Anthem.

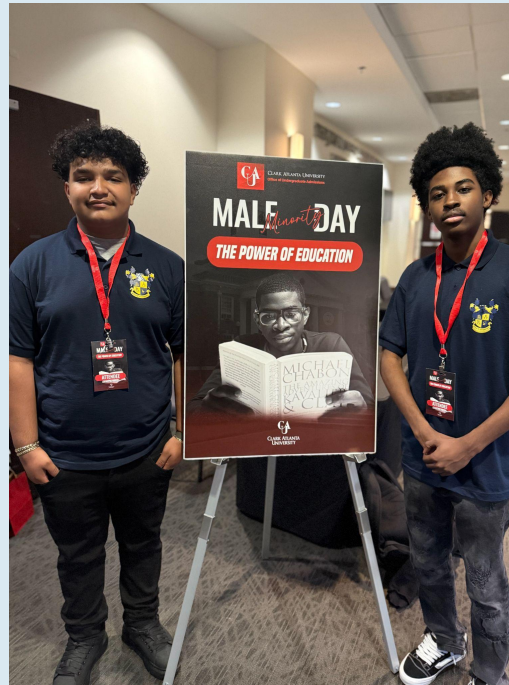


Clark Atlanta University's Minority Male Day

On October 9th, SkillsUSA Audio-Video, Technology, and Film students and TSA Engineering students attended Minority MALE DAY at Clark Atlanta University. They listened to speakers discuss masculinity and the importance of higher education, participated in a necktie ceremony, were introduced to fraternities, and enjoyed a step show. The day concluded with a campus tour and lunch.



SkillsUSA/TSA students along with advisors



Christopher Centeno-Torres
and Rashad Foley



SkillsUSA/TSA students

Middle School Great Debaters



Jamon Aiken, Eric Sharp and Alexander Ginn

On October 26th, BEST Middle School Debaters competed against ten other schools. Jamon Aiken, Alex Ginn, and Eric Sharp received Speaker Awards, while Alex Ginn and Eric Sharp won the Team Award.



BEST Scholars on the far left with the winning competitors from other middle schools



Gettysburg Exploratory Trip

During Fall Break, members of our Military and Leadership Pathways of Developmental Success (PODS) program traveled to Harper's Ferry, WV, and Gettysburg, PA. The trip focused on the contributions of diverse individuals during the Civil War, emphasizing the black American experience and the fight for liberation. Participants also explored key qualities of effective leadership. The journey concluded in Washington, DC, with visits to the Martin Luther King Memorial and The National Museum of African American History and Culture. Special thanks to The Gettysburg Foundation and 100 Black Men of Atlanta for their support.



Gettysburg tour guide with Marcus Daniels and



Chaperones: Joshua Moore and 1SG Kwame Slaughter



Members of the PODS Delegation and Chaperones

Equity Champion



Mr. MacArthur Randolph our school counselor was recognized by the Atlanta Public Schools as an Equity Champion.



Royal Coronation



On October 2nd, the BEST Academy family celebrated the crowning of Mr. BEST, Marcus Daniels, and Miss CSK, Makaiya Monford. The royal court showcased their beauty and danced to flawless choreography by Ms. Tanika Vincent.



Mr. BEST, Marcus Daniels and Miss CSK,
Makaiya Monford



Principal Williams, Mr. BEST, Miss CSK, Principal Washington



Mr. Blue & Gold, Rantavious Handley
Miss Pink & Brown, Makyla Harris



Royal Court