



SUCCESS – IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

2014-15 Highlights

SUCCESS – IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM!

The Pickens County School District demonstrated great success both in and out of the classroom during the 2014-15 school year! Here are just some of our accomplishments:



Students



Pickens High students graduated 258 students and 92 Honor graduates in May, 2015.



A Pickens High student won 1st Place in the Georgia and 1st Place in the nation for Childhood Education at the National Skills/USA Conference.



A Pickens County Middle student won 1st Place for 7th and 8th grades in the Spring 2015 Berry College Mathematics Contest.



Two Pickens High students advanced to the 2nd round at the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) State Leadership Conference.



Two Pickens High students placed 7th in the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) State Conference.



Pickens High received the following at the TSA (Technology Students of America) State Leadership Conference:

- 1st Place – Outstanding Student in GA TSA
- 1st Place – Aided Design Architectural
- 2nd Place – Computer Aided Publishing
- 6th Place – Chapter Team
- 9th Place – Music Production



A Pickens High student was elected to a 2014-15 FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) State Office – “Vice President of Community Service”.



Tate Elementary students won 1st and 2nd place in their respective categories in the Regional Social Studies Fair. The 1st Place winner advanced to the State competition.



Jasper Elementary won 1st Place in the Pickens County Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl and 4th Place in the Region competition.



Harmony Elementary won 1st Place in the Pickens County Math Bowl.



Pickens High students received two Gold Achievement awards and one Silver Achievement award at the FCCLA Region competition, continuing on to State competition.



At the FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Pickens High students placed:

- 2nd – Teach and Train
- 3rd – Creative Garnishes
- 4th – Life Event Planning



Two Pickens High students won 1st Place in their respective categories, Clinical Nursing and Medical Assisting at the FBLA regional conference.



Pickens High School received the following at the State level in Agriculture Education/FFA:

- 1st Place for GA Junior National Livestock Show Market Hog
- 4th Place for Senior Poultry Judging
- 7th Place for GA Junior National Livestock Show Swine Showmanship
- 6th Place for Farm Business Management CDE
- Finalist for State Proficiency Awards Program



2014-2015 was a remarkable year for PHS Athletics, as student athletes helped the school earn its best athletic record and the highest ranking in school history in the Georgia Athletic Directors Associations Regions Cup.

Faculty/District



Pickens High was recognized as a 2014-15 AP STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) school by the GA Department of Education. Angela Quarles, teacher at PHS, was recognized as a top national teacher for STEM.



Pickens High recognized the following students and teachers as part of the Optimist Club's "STAR" Program (Student/Teacher/Achievement/Recognition):

Andrew Haygood / Michael Oubre, 2015 STAR Student and Teacher

Finalists (Student/Teacher): Jesse Brooks / Christi Hobgood, Johnson Collins / Joe Wright. Ryan Evans / Lynn Cantrell, Savannah Friedman / Gail Culbreth, Abygayle Gibson / Lisa Payne, Kari Henke / Robbie Cheatham, Olivia Parker / Nikki Towery, Brad Rutledge / Sue Gibbons, Kyle Watters / Bobby Timms



The Pickens County School District was awarded the *Striving Readers Grant*, totaling over \$2,000,000 to promote literacy across the curriculum. The Literacy Program will be implemented over the next five years.



Pickens County Middle has been officially re-designated as a *Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch* for years 2015-18 by the Board of Directors of the Georgia Lighthouse Schools to Watch program.



Hill City Elementary is the Spring 2015 recipient of the Lowes Educational Grant, receiving \$6000.000 to complete funding for their Greenhouse and Table Project.



Pickens County School District's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year is Kelly Weaver, 3rd grade teacher at Jasper Elementary.



For 2014, Pickens County students had a graduation rate of 85.1%, significantly higher than the state average of 72.5% and ranked 35th out of 185 school districts in Georgia.



Pickens High teacher Rodney Martin won the Horace Mann Crystal Apple Award in August and Pickens High teacher Lauren Bail won the award in September.



73% of the certified staff in the Pickens County School District has an advanced degree.



The Pickens County Board of Education was recognized as 2014 Georgia School Board Association Quality Board and a 2015 Distinguished Board.