



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### IMPACT junior wins fourth national title

Portraying George Washington likely would be a huge mistake at the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day competition. But portraying John Adams, who was a tad jealous – albeit supportive – of George Washington earned IMPACT Early College High School senior Matthew Broussard his fourth first place award in the prestigious annual competition in Washington, DC.

Broussard is the only student to win four years at National History Day in the Individual Performance category, taking the honor in seventh, ninth, tenth and eleventh grades. Further, he is the only student ever to win three years in a row. He first competed in sixth grade, winning at the state level and moving on to nationals. Although he didn't win that year, Broussard was hooked on the History competition. By seventh grade, he had developed a love of the American Revolution. "I was in pre-AP Social Studies in sixth grade and it was mandatory that we compete at the school level," Broussard said. "I didn't really want to do it, but I had to. I'm thankful that it was a mandatory process because I've developed a love and passion for history because of the History Fair. It's a lot of work, but it pays off and I just enjoy doing it."

The topic for the 2015 competition was "Leadership and Legacy in History." For months, Broussard researched Washington's leadership, particularly in 1782-1783 during the Newburgh Crisis, studying letters and documents from that era. He put together a process paper, from which he developed a 10-minute script. Competitors in the Individual Performance category act out their scripts, complete with costuming and props. He told the story from the perspective of John Adams. More than 150 students from all over the country – all either number one or number two history contest winners in their respective states – competed in Broussard's category. (Approximately 600,000 students around the country compete in a History contest every year, first at the school level where the top two students move on to regional competitions. From there, the top two regional winners compete at the state level where the national finalists are selected.) Students are judged on the content of their script, as well as their performance, but their research and bibliography count for about 60 percent of their overall score, so the extent of their research is critical.



Matthew Broussard portrayal of John Adams earned the IMPACT Early College High School senior his fourth first place award in the prestigious annual competition in Washington, DC.

Following his first place win, Broussard learned he had also been chosen for the George Washington Leadership in History Award, an honor given to a student who best exemplifies the influence of Washington in the nation's history.

As part of his research for projects over the years, Broussard has reached out to and spoken with some of the country's most renowned historical scholars. "The connections I've made with Revolutionary and Civil War historians is invaluable," he said. "You think these people are unreachable, but they actually give thoughtful responses to your questions. They're so humble despite their vast amounts of knowledge."

Broussard credits Steve Koester, his sponsor and mentor for the past three years, for much of his success, as well as the teachers and judges who have provided advice along the way.

"I plan to major in History in college," Broussard said. "I'm not sure where it will take me but it is my greatest love, so that's what I will do."

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