



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

3 students earn medals at National History Day

Matthew Broussard, who just finished seventh grade at Gentry Junior School, earned the Gold medal in the Junior Individual Performance category for his performance titled "The Treaty of Paris: The Ultimate Game of Chess" at the National History Day competition on the University of Maryland's College Park campus.

In his nation's best performance, Broussard portrayed Benjamin Franklin, one of the country's Founding Fathers who helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris with Great Britain ending the American Revolutionary War and securing the United States ownership of a vast territory between the Atlantic coast and the Mississippi River.

The judges were very impressed with the "consummate program of living history performance and research" that Matthew did.

"I believe we see a young scholar in our midst who will be making history himself one day. Congratulations to him, his school and state," the judge said.

Another judge added: "Please echo my congratulations to Mr. Broussard for his strong performance as Benjamin Franklin during the History Day national competition. His performance was excellent in all respects and certainly deserved that high honor. I know he has many successes in front of him."

A two-time state first place winner, this was Matthew's second trip to the national competition. He is the student of Jody Roberts.

The Cedar Bayou Junior School team of Rachel Lahowetz and Hanna Zerdo earned a Silver medal at the national contest in the junior division category of group interpretative website. Their website entry was entitled: "Defining the First Amendment: The Skokie Case." They are the students of Caren Miller.

In all, 10 students from Goose Creek CISD participated in the annual five-day history event for students in grades six through 12. By winning first or second place at the state level competition, these students advanced to the national level where they represented Goose Creek CISD and Texas well during the National History Day contest held from June 12-16.

Nearly 50,000 students across Texas competed at the local level in 2011 to win the opportunity to represent Texas in this contest, which sees more than 2,700 students from 50 states, 2 territories, the District of Columbia, and several other affiliates in foreign countries compete to see who has the best history research and presentation skills.

Projects were based on this year's annual theme of Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences and were entered in five categories: museum style exhibit, interpretive website, multimedia documentary, dramatic performance, and research paper.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for all the time and effort they put into their projects," said Coordinator of Social Studies and Advanced Academics Toni Shuman.

"These students have not only deepened their understanding of their chosen topics, but also been energized by learning. The students, their teachers, and parents have much of which to be proud."



The Cedar Bayou Junior School team of Rachel Lahowetz, right, and Hanna Zerdo earned a Silver medal at the national contest in the junior division category of group interpretative website.

History fair participation is and has been a district initiative for pre-AP social studies in Goose Creek CISD for years, and the district's track record at state and nationals is a source of community pride.

A recent study found students who participate in NHD develop a range of college and career-ready skills, and outperform their peers on state standardized tests in multiple subjects, including reading, science, math and social studies.

Students also representing Goose Creek CISD at the National History Day event include:

- Cedar Bayou Junior School student Jonathan Garcia competed in the individual exhibit. His exhibit was entitled: "Ping Pong Diplomacy: Nixon's 1972 Visit to China." He is the student of Carrie Kinnaman.
- The Cedar Bayou Junior School team of Lauren Buntin, Annie Jones, Caroline Fess, Abby Gregorcyk, and Elisabeth Villareal competed in the junior group documentary category. Their documentary was entitled: "Wolves of Yellowstone: Debate to Reintroduction." They are the students of Carrie Kinnaman.
- Horace Mann Junior School student Utkarsh Sharma competed in the junior division category of interpretative website. His website entry was entitled: "Quit India." He is the student of Freddie Joseph and Suzy Ferrell.

National History Day is a year-long academic organization for elementary and secondary school students focused on the teaching and learning of history.

The Texas State Historical Association sponsors the National History Day program in Texas in cooperation with the University of North Texas. Founded in 1897, the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) fosters the appreciation, understanding and teaching of the rich and unique history of Texas. TSHA pursues the "actual doing of history," from research, writing and publications to educational programs designed to support teaching Texas history in the public school system.

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Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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