

For Immediate Release: MACS HOSA Excels

Mount Airy City Schools (MACS) may be one of the smallest districts in North Carolina, but when it comes to the success of its Future Health Professionals (HOSA) program, the impact is large! Mount Airy Middle School (MAMS) and Mount Airy High School (MAHS) HOSA students recently attended their State Leadership Conference in Charlotte, NC. Students competed in various events and experienced great success.

MACS's HOSA program has grown and changed much like the organization's name, formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America. HOSA operates within the Career and Technical Education programming offered at MAHS and MAMS.

Over the past 10 years, the program has exceeded expected growth due to the work of Ms. Lynn Snow. Ms. Snow, a Registered Nurse and Certified Pharmacy Technician, has built the program from two students to over 90 by building relationships with students, creating awareness of health occupations, and providing experiences through local partnerships. Her sustained effort not only created student buy-in but also created the need for a second health education teacher at MAHS. In 2017, Mrs. Tammy Whitt joined MAHS and the successful HOSA program. Soon after this, MAMS expanded its student offerings by hiring its first health educator, Mrs. Jennifer Epperson. MAMS is one of the first middle schools to offer HOSA and health education courses to students. It is one of four middle schools with this program in the state. It is the only one west of Raleigh and north of Charlotte. Mrs. Epperson has established a thriving HOSA program that has seen many successes in its short time.

MACS HOSA programs are known on a local, state, and national level thanks to the work of these educators. Students gain valuable skills through participating in health science education and HOSA. Several graduates of MAHS are contributing members of the health care community such as physicians, physical therapists, speech therapists, athletic trainers, registered nurses, and more.

MAHS HOSA State Competition 2019 Final Results:

- Tripp Gilley - Regional Vice-President, 3rd Place Nutrition Knowledge Test
- Mason Jester - 2nd Place Nursing Assistant
- Darius Walker-Barbara James Service Award
- The team of Meredith Marion, Ellie Martin, Anna Kate Tucker and Reece Watson-Public Health Top 10 State Finalists
- Ellie Martin-Barbara James Service Award
- The team of Kathlyn Mauck and Ashton Rierson- CPR/First Aid Top 10 State Finalists
Ashton Rierson-Regional President and NC HOSA Executive Council Member and
Barbara James Service Award
- The following members will advance to national competition in June 2019: Tripp Gilley, Mason Jester, Darius Walker, Ellie Martin and Ashton Rierson.

MAMS HOSA State Competition 2019 Final Results:

- Jamie Hearl and Danielle Diefendorf - 1st place Health Career Display
- Abby Epperson and Carrie Marion - 2nd place Health Career Display
- Ali Arnder and Ella Brant - 3rd place Health Career Display
- Kayleigh Creed - 1st place Extemporaneous Health Poster
- Kylie James - 2nd place Extemporaneous Health Poster
- Haley Hudson - 3rd place Extemporaneous Health Poster
- Lacey Taylor - 2nd place Prepared Speaking
- Jadee Gilley - 1st place Knowledge Test Nutrition and Barbara James Service Award
- MAMS HOSA - Gold Star Chapter Award, HOSA National Service Project Award
- Mrs. Jennifer Epperson, MAMS HOSA Advisor - Gold Star Chapter Advisor Award, Elected as the Piedmont Triad Representative on the NC HOSA Board of Directors
- These students all qualified to attend competition at the International Leadership Conference in June at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Other interesting notes:

Regional and State HOSA competitive events winners from the secondary division every year since 2008.

National HOSA competitive events participants and/or winners from the secondary division every year since 2012.

In 2015-2016 Rachel Evans, a Mount Airy High School student, held the position as the District 7 President on the NC HOSA Executive Council.

For 2019-2020 Ashton Rierson, a rising senior at Mount Airy High School, will hold the position of Piedmont Triad Region (formerly known as District 7) President on the NC HOSA Executive Council. Rising MAHS senior, Tripp Gilley will service as the region's vice-president.

Lynn Snow, the HOSA advisor from Mount Airy High School, has sat on the NC HOSA Board of Directors as district board representative since 2012 and is currently serving as Board Chair. She was recognized as 2017 NC HOSA Advisor of the Year and received the National Award of Merit Outstanding HOSA Advisor in 2017 as well.