



NEWS RELEASE

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Four GCPS seniors tie for top honor... earning title of 2019 Gwinnett County STAR Student

An event which celebrates some of Gwinnett County's brightest, culminated with the naming of four Gwinnett County Public Schools' students as **Gwinnett County's STAR Student and Teacher winners**. **Thi Dao**— a senior at **Brookwood High School**, **Aidan Donelan**— a senior at **Duluth High School**, **Alex Kim**— a senior at the **Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology**, and **Shawn Im**— a senior at **Peachtree Ridge High School** are among those sharing this year's title of **Gwinnett 2019 STAR (Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition) Student**, representing Gwinnett County's public and private schools. The STAR student honor is bestowed on the senior in the top 10 percent of his or her class with the highest SAT score. As part of the recognition, each STAR student selects a teacher who has had a strong influence on his/her academic career. The Brookwood High senior selected her 11th grade Language Arts teacher, **Dr. Amber Simmons**, as her STAR Teacher, while Donelan selected **Mr. Jonathan Roy**, who taught him Engineering. Kim selected **Ms. Laura Gray** who was his 10th grade AP Computer Science teacher and Im selected his 10th grade Math teacher **Ms. Ann Rodgers Mitchell Whalen**, of **Buford High School**, and his STAR Teacher **Mrs. Valerie Head**, also were recognized at the event as Buford City Schools' honorees.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation and Partnership Gwinnett partnered to honor STAR Student and Teacher honorees during this year's STAR Student and Teacher Luncheon on Friday, **March 8**. The event celebrates all local school STAR students from each Gwinnett County high school (public and private), as well as the top student from Buford High School (Buford City Schools).

Local sponsors include **Partnership Gwinnett; Presenting Sponsor— Children's Healthcare of Atlanta; Leading Sponsor— Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine- Georgia Campus; Principal Sponsor— Gwinnett County Public Schools Foundation, Inc.**, and **Supporting Sponsors— Georgia Power, Gwinnett Technical College, and Peach State Federal Credit Union; and Corporate Sponsor—Georgia United Credit Union.**

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The 2019 Gwinnett County STAR Student and Teacher winners will now move on and compete for the regional title. Regional winners will then move to the state level for the honor of being named Georgia's 2019 STAR Student and Teacher.

2019 STAR Students and Teachers representing all Gwinnett high schools

School	STAR Student	STAR Teacher
Archer High School	Sela Redford	Joni Jameson
Berkmar High School	Sarah Monteiro	Malena Mitchell
Brookwood High School	*Thi Dao	* Dr. Amber Simmons
Buford High School	**Mitchell Whalen	* Valerie Head
Central Gwinnett High School	Amy Truong	Andres Serna Lopez
Collins Hill High School	LaFayette "Fate" Bussey	Mary Bruce
Covenant Christian Academy	Zachary "Zack" Reese	Susan Owen
Dacula High School	Chloe French	Christy Belbey
Discovery High School	Adam Siffel	Dr. Maria Thurmond
Duluth High School	* Aidan Donelan	* Jonathan Roy
Grayson High School	Stephen Joseph	<i>Ronald Reid</i>
Greater Atlanta Christian School	Victoria Huynh	Mary Lynn Huett
Gwinnett Online Campus	Daniel Gallagher	Michael Herring
Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology	* Alex Kim	* Laura Gray
Hebron Christian Academy	Alexandra Walsh	Dr. Calin Pop
Killian Hill Christian School	Yifeng "Lisa" Wang	Matthew Lewis
Lanier High School	John Rumble	Michael Reilly
Meadowcreek High School	Sabahat Chowdhury	Leslie Dunham
Mill Creek High School	Calvin Shaw	Janna Penn
Mountain View High School	Adam Hordines	Billy Jones
Norcross High School	Jacob Bottomley	Martha Haer (Peachtree ES)
North Gwinnett High School	Suhwan "Daniel" Lee	Vanessa Guilarte
Parkview High School	Ryan Tay	Susan Parker
Peachtree Ridge High School	* Shawn Im	* Ann Rodgers
Phoenix High School	Sarah Hardin	<i>Lisa Rice</i>
Providence Christian Academy	Kyra Hoskin	Chris Clark
Shiloh High School	Robert Cranston	Casey Ramel
South Gwinnett High School	Samuel "Sam" Oyerinde	Erma Davis
Wesleyan School	Jennifer Nolan	Joseph Cooper

*2019 Gwinnett County STAR Student and Teacher

** 2019 Buford City STAR Student and Teacher