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Presenting Houston County's 2019 Valedictorians & Salutatorians



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Houston County high schools have announced their valedictorian and salutatorian for the Classes of 2019. The top graduates are:

- **Houston County High** - Valedictorian Tien Dinh Tran, Salutatorian Christopher Saetia;
- **Northside High** - Valedictorian Symone Damara Crowder, Salutatorian Kimberly Lopez;
- **Perry High** - Valedictorian Phoebe Grace Guidry, Salutatorian Mallory Gayle Lee;
- **Veterans High** - Valedictorian Aakash Arora, Salutatorian Landon Ray Kirkland; and
- **Warner Robins High** - Valedictorian Emily Katherine Howell, Salutatorian Sandra Marie Bourdon.

The seniors are pictured (from left): Tran, Saetia, Crowder, Lopez, Guidry, Lee, Arora, Kirkland, Howell and Bourdon. Commencement ceremonies will be May 24 and 25, 2019. All ceremonies will be held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry in the Miller-Murphy-Howard Building. Approximately 1,880 students will graduate.

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The graduation schedule and estimated number of graduates follows.

- Northside High School, Friday, May 24, 4:30 p.m., 431 graduates;
- Warner Robins High School, Friday, May 24, 8:00 p.m., 350 graduates
- Veterans High School, Saturday, May 25, 8:30 a.m., 360 graduates;
- Perry High School, Saturday, May 25, 12:00 p.m., 311 graduates; and
- Houston County High School, Saturday, May 25, 3:30 p.m., 428 graduates.

Brief biographies and photographs are provided for each valedictorian and salutatorian.



Houston County High Valedictorian, Tien Dinh Tran

Tien Tran is a National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, earning 5s on eight AP Exams, as well as the highest average awards in Honors Advanced Algebra, Foundations of Engineering, Honors and AP Chemistry, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science Principles. Additionally, he has been awarded the University of Georgia Certificate of Merit and National Merit Commended Scholar as well as Houston County High and District STAR Student. Tran is a member of Beta Club, Interact Club, Math Team, Technology Student Association, Coding Club, FBLA and National Technical Honor Society, participating in activities such as volunteering at Lake Joy Elementary and creating a mobile app game for the Congressional App Challenge. Furthermore, Tran serves his community through

a tutoring job at Kumon Math and Reading Center where he has worked since beginning 9th grade. While he has not decided on which college to attend, Tran plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science because of his passion in creating computer programs. Tran is the son of Vy Ly and Long Tran, and has three brothers: Tan, Van and Hieu.

Houston County High Salutatorian, Christopher Saetia

Christopher Saetia serves as the current president of Houston County High's Technology Student Association (TSA) chapter. His academic accolades include being a Georgia Tech Stamp's President Scholar semi-finalist, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction, Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient, Governor's Honors Program Mathematics state nominee and Golden Eagle nominee for technology. On top of TSA, he is a member of Student Council, Beta Club, Math Team, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, History Club, Interact Club and Coding Club. His passion lies in engineering and designing a better society and community. He has participated in two international design competitions, winning 3rd place in Autodesk and UNHCR Design for Social Impact and 4th place in Autodesk and Airbus Design for Space Travel. During his time in TSA, he placed nationally 4th in CAD Architecture and 9th in Future Technology Teacher, while also receiving the National TSA Gold Achievement award. On the state level, he placed 1st in CAD architecture and was a top-10 finalist in six other technical events, such as Mechanical Engineering and Alternative Energy Design, at GATSA state conference and Technology Day. Throughout high school, he has earned the highest averages in Engineering Concepts, AP World History, AP U.S. History and four other courses. He enjoys serving the district, from volunteering at Lake Joy Elementary to helping his teacher run a STEM camp. He plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to study aerospace engineering. He is the son of Sing Saetia and Hong Hoang and brother to Justin Saetia.



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Northside High Valedictorian, Symone Damara Crowder

Symone Crowder was a four-year member of the marching and concert band, as well as the Beta Club. She is a member of the Junior Optimist Club, the ambassador for the Human Rights Council representing Rwanda in the Model United Nations and an Eagle Ambassador. She is also a four-year member of the Academic Bowl team, for which she served as captain this year. During high school, she has participated in the social studies fair, state science fair and literary competition. She is the 2019 STAR Student for Northside High and the Optimist Student of the Month for January. Crowder has received the College Board's AP Scholar with Distinction award and is a Georgia Scholar. She has been accepted into the University of Georgia, Georgia Southern and the Georgia

Institute of Technology. Crowder plans to pursue a career in biochemistry. She was raised by her parents, Kimberly and Tony Crowder.

Northside High Salutatorian, Kimberly Lopez

Kimberly Lopez has received the Georgia Certificate of Merit, Microsoft Office Specialist Certification and Top 5% three times. She was nominated for the Governor's Honors Program in Mathematics and Spanish and made it to the state level for Spanish. In addition, she has been recognized by Questbridge as a 2018 College Prep Scholar. She has also been involved in a clubs such as Math Club and Future Business Leaders of America. Her other activities include soccer, National Spanish Honor Society and working during her junior and senior years. Lopez plans to attend Mercer University to major in software engineering and minor in Spanish. She is the daughter of Ruben and Maria Lopez and has two sisters.





Perry High Valedictorian, Phoebe Grace Guidry

Phoebe Guidry is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, University of Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient, 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program nominee and two-time Georgia Governor's Honors Nominee. She was nominated for the Golden Eagle Award for Science and the Department of Education Georgia Scholars Program. Guidry has held numerous leadership positions in Beta Club, National Honor Society and the Panther Regiment Bands. She will represent Perry in the 2019 GMEA All State Band (French horn). She is active in Perry High's Drama Department and has served as stage manager for several productions. She was Perry's delegate for the 2017 HOBY Leadership Conference and has served on the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Board. Her

community service includes the 2017 Perry Youth Leadership Program, KAZ Sorority's Vice President of Administration and Houston Medical Center's Volunteering Program. A member of St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart Catholic Churches, she is active in Lifeteen, Antioch Retreat Leadership and the church orchestra. Guidry plans to attend the University of Alabama where she will create her own Depth Study under the direction of UA's New College. She has been named a McCollough Scholar for Pre Medical Studies, as well as a member of the Honors College. Her parents are Kim and Morrison Guidry and her brother is Eli Guidry, the 2015 Perry High salutatorian.

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Perry High Salutatorian, Mallory Gayle Lee

Mallory Lee is a Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient and a Georgia State Finalist in the US Presidential Scholar program. Lee has been recognized for the highest average in AP Statistics and received a 5 on the AP English Language and Composition exam. She has maintained a 4.0 average while balancing a rigorous course load and many extracurricular activities. A four-year member of the Panther Regiment marching band, she has been a flute section leader for two years. She participated in the 2015 Grand Champion show, "Nevermore," as well as the 2017 Grand Champion show, "Paradise Lost." She has been in the highest band class at Perry High School for her entire high school career. Lee is an active member of the Perry FFA, where she has been an officer for two years and attended the National FFA Convention for Meats Evaluation. Lee's team placed 10th and she placed 21st in the nation. She is a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club, National Technical Honor Society and Chick-fil-a Leader Academy. She plans to attend the University of Georgia to major in Animal Science and minor in Business to pursue her long-term goal of owning her own veterinary practice. Her parents are Marc and Stacy Lee.





Veterans High Valedictorian, Aakash Arora

Aakash Arora is the STAR student for the year as well as a Golden Eagle Award nominee in Science. He has served as the Beta Club President for the past two years, in addition to Captain of the Math Team and founder of the Veterans High Academic Bowl Team. He has also been a research student for four years. Arora won several awards at local, state and international levels, specifically Grand Award - 4th place in Animal Sciences and a Special Award by the United States Air Force for 1st Place in Animal Sciences at the 2017 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The son of Deepa and Sanjeev Arora, Aakash plans to pursue a medical career as a physician at Emory, Duke or Yale University. His plans are to conduct clinical research in the future.

Veterans High Salutatorian, Landon Ray Kirkland

Landon Kirkland was a Georgia Governor's Honors Program nominee who currently serves as president of SkillsUSA. He is also a member of the Veterans High School Academic Bowl, Math Team and Coding Club. He works with a local company to film school productions and helps to produce replays at home football games. The son of Tracie and Johnathan Kirkland, his future plans include attending the Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue a degree in engineering.



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Warner Robins High Valedictorian, Emily Katherine Howell

Emily Kathrine Howell is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction, a Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient and the Warner Robins High 2019 STAR Student. She has earned multiples awards for the highest GPA in her academic classes throughout high school. Howell was a 2017 Governor's Honors Program Semi-Finalist in French horn performance and a 2018 Governor's Honors Program Finalist in Communicative Arts. She was a member of the school Choraliers, as well as the Warner Robins Symphonic Band and Demon Marching Band. Howell has served as Mellophone Section Leader, Field Captain and Drum Major in the marching band. Her marching band peers voted her the Most Outstanding Sophomore, Junior and Senior, as well as Most

Dedicated and Outstanding Bandsman. An accomplished French horn player, she has earned a place in the District and Region Honor Bands six times and was selected for All-State Band three times. Howell was also a member of French Club, Beta Club and Mu Alpha Theta Math Club. She is considering Duke University, the University of Georgia or the University of Alabama at Birmingham to further her education. Her parents are Todd and Nancy Howell.

Warner Robins High Salutatorian, Sandra Marie Bourdon

Sandra Bourdon is an Advanced Placement Scholar, Governor's Honors Program Semifinalist and recipient of the Georgia Certificate of Merit. She has taken numerous honors classes and 10 AP classes and earned many awards for having the highest GPA in her classes. Currently she serves as Beta Club President and enjoys visiting the local hospital with her club. Bourdon also volunteers at Camp Wings, the Museum of Aviation and local vacation Bible schools. She is the treasurer of Quiz Bowl and also participates in Chick-Fil-A Leadership and student council. She has enjoyed being a member of the Warner Robins High Choir for three years. In addition, her family won the Ed Jarvis Volunteer Award for their work with the Heart of Georgia Hospice. Bourdon will attend Emory University as a QuestBridge scholar and plans to pursue pre-med or public health. She hopes to continue actively volunteering while in college. Her parents are Carlos and Omayra Bourdon.



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