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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Houston County Elementary Students Perform in Honor Chorus

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Four Houston County elementary schools participated in the Georgia Music Educators Association’s (GMEA) 2018 Statewide Elementary Honor Chorus. Twenty students from David Perdue, Hilltop, Langston Road and Quail Run Elementary Schools were selected to participate in the prestigious event held at Athens, Ga.

The Statewide Elementary Honor Chorus gives students the unique opportunity to perform with musically gifted students from all over the state of Georgia under very accomplished conductors and educators of choral music and was a wonderful learning experience for these students.

Students selected to participate in the Elementary Honor Chorus rehearsed and learned the music prior to the event. They joined 500 students from across the state in this two-day workshop with guest choral conductors in two combined choirs. Their performance was held in the Classic Center Theatre. Students were divided equally among two choirs, the Vivace Choir and the Allegro Choir. Houston County students were in the Vivace choir and worked under award-winning conductors and music educators Dr. Craig Denison and Karen Nicolosi.

Dr. Denison is the Artistic Director of the Florida Singing Sons Boychoir and the Master Chorale at the Florida International University. He previously served as music director for the Colorado Children’s Chorale and conductor of the American Boys choir. Nicolosi served as professor of Music Education at the University of Alabama. She founded and directed the Tuscaloosa Boychoir, later named The Alabama Choir School to include both boys and girls.

The Vivace Choirs' musical selections included "The Rainbow" (David Childs), "Liver" (Samuel Lancaster), "Linstead Market" (Douglas Beam), "Irish Blessing" (Eleanor Daley) and "Praise His Holy Name" (Keith Hampton). The following students represented the school system at the GMEA Elementary Honor Chorus:



**Langston Road Elementary - Choral Director, Sheila Clopton**  
Makhiya Ezell, Isaiah West, Laura Frances Ryan, and Andrew Battle



**David Perdue Elementary - Choral Director, Bradley Weaver**  
Angel Altman, Catherine Nix, Dylan Greer, Matthew Griffin, Violet Urbansky



**Hilltop Elementary – Choral Director, Shaun Parsons**  
Sikari Clifford, Jayda Johnson, Kayli Brown, Elijah Barbee



**Quail Run Elementary – Choral Director, Darren Layfield**  
Abi Bragg, Drew Bragg, Ethan Butler, Nathan Lopez and Timothy Zayac

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