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Veterans High Student Wins International History Olympiad



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Veterans High School junior Matthew Connair (pictured left) was a member of the multinational team that won the Junior Varsity History Bowl third-place medal at the International History Olympiad in Berlin, Germany. Approximately 180 middle and high school students from 22 countries participated in both team and individual events.

The History Bowl is the most prestigious event and is team based. Several countries brought enough players to form A, B, and C level teams that competed together. Matthew was the only participant from Georgia, so he was placed on a team with students from Nevada and Saudi Arabia, based on their scores on the preliminary exams.

Students took a written exam, a 400-question multiple choice test (called the Battery) and participated in a Hexathlon event (maps, multiple choice test, cross word, fill in the blank, visual, and audio tests related to historical sights and actions). After teams were created, they began playoffs.

Matthew's team advanced through the first round of competition, and on the second day of competition, they competed in the semifinals. In the last match of the day, they beat a team from Ohio to win 3rd place. On the final day of competition, the top two junior varsity teams: India A and Maryland A, completed for first place in a black tie optional event at Charlottenburg Palace.

In addition to the History Bowl, there were many individual competitions including: the History Bee, Ancient History, Recent History, German Military History, History of Berlin, Popular Music, Art and Classical Music. During their down time, competitors visited Berlin landmarks, including a Mitte tour – the city center including the Reichstag, the remaining sections of the Berlin Wall, and Holocaust Memorials – and tours of Lake Wannsee, the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the German Historical Museum.



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The biennial International History Olympiad is sponsored by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and is organized by [International Academic Competitions](#). The International History Olympiad was held at the Brandenburg International School in Kleinmachnow, Germany near Berlin. It brought together the top history students from around the world for an unforgettable nine days of competitions with a history-based theme and a chance to meet students with similar interests and talents from around the world. Although numerous events are held, only one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal are awarded per event, per division. The event was held during the summer on July 22.

Veterans High is located at 340 Piney Grove Road in Kathleen. Dr. Amy Barbour serves as principal. For more information, please contact Dr. Barbour at 478-218-7537, ext. 64006, or Amy.Barbour@hcbe.net.

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