

Dear Stratford Parents:

We have now passed the halfway point of summer vacation (roughly six weeks behind us, roughly four weeks ahead of us). I hope your family is enjoying these months off from the normal school schedule. This is the sixth year that our school has compiled a "year in review" to share with families as we take some time off. When I think back on the 2017-18 school year, one of the first things that come to mind is Mother Nature. I don't think I've ever experienced a school year that included a solar and lunar eclipse, hurricane and ice storm. Nonetheless, it is always telling for me to see a year's worth of "bragging" melded into one piece of communication. It tells a wonderful, descriptive story of our students, faculty/staff, parents, and their many contributions to life at Stratford Academy. We have a great deal to be proud of and I am thankful for the part that each one of you played.

Class of 2018

- 88 students
- 46 members of the Class of 2018 received 74 merit scholarship offers from 40 institutions totaling of \$6.7 million dollars, not including HOPE/Zell Miller scholarships
- 48% of class graduated with honors
- 52% of the Class of 2018 attended Stratford for at least twelve years - 52% of those "lifers" are honor graduates
- One National Merit Semi-Finalist and four National Merit Commended Scholars
- 100% College Matriculation at 33 colleges/universities - 39% In-state, 61% Out-of-state
- Earned acceptances to 102 colleges/universities across the country
- *The Telegraph* Golden Eagle winners in Mathematics, Science and Technology
- Five student-athletes playing collegiate athletics
- UGA Foundation Fellow and Coca-Cola Scholar
- 31% of the Class of 2018 was recognized by The College Board in the 2017 AP Scholar Report
- Stratford STAR Student-Teacher, Mark Barrow and Mr. Mike Kelley, also were named the Bibb County STAR Student-Teacher
- 74% of class enrolled in AP classes their senior year
- Founders of three non-profits

The Class of 2018 was accepted to the following colleges/universities. The schools in bold type represent the class matriculation:

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Agnes Scott College

University of Alabama

University of Alaska Anchorage

Albany State University

American University

Appalachian State University

Arizona State University

Auburn University

Augusta University

Ball State University
Baylor University
Belmont University
Berry College
Brown University
Butler University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
Charleston Southern University
College of Charleston
Clemson University
University of Colorado at Boulder
Colorado School of Mines
University of Connecticut
Davidson College
University of Delaware
Duke University
East Carolina University
Emory University
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
University of Florida
Fordham University
Furman University
Georgia College and State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Military College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
University of Georgia
Gordon State College
Harvard University
Howard University
Indiana University at Bloomington
Kennesaw State University
University of Kentucky
Lewis and Clark College
Louisiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Mercer University
Miami University, Oxford
University of Michigan
Mississippi State University

University of Mississippi

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

North Carolina State University

University of North Florida

University of North Georgia

Northeastern University

The University of Oklahoma

Oxford College of Emory University

Pace University

Pellissippi State University

University of Pennsylvania

Pepperdine University

University of Pittsburgh

Presbyterian College

Reinhardt University

Rice University

Roanoke College

Rollins College

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Saint Mary's College

Samford University

Savannah College of Art and Design

Savannah State University

Sewanee: The University of the South

Skidmore College

University of South Carolina

Southern Methodist University

St. Edward's University

Stanford University

Syracuse University

Tallahassee Community College

University of Tampa

Temple University

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Texas Christian University

University of Texas, Austin

Troy University

Tufts University

Valdosta State University

Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington and Lee University

Wesleyan College

University of West Georgia

Western Carolina University

Yale University

Academics

There is no question that our Upper School students follow a rigorous and challenging schedule. They balance academic responsibilities while over 90 percent of them are involved in some school-related extracurricular activity. These are just a few of the academic accolades our students earned this year: hosted a TED talk at TEDx Peachtree, won the Carson McCullars Literary Award for short story writing, won the Science and Engineering Fair at Georgia College and State University and earned an invitation to the Intel International Science and Engineering fair, represented Macon at the Japan-America Grassroots Summit in Nara, Japan, honored as the recipient of the Bert Bivins III Student Leadership Award, participated in the Ambassadors in Sneakers Transatlantic Summer Academy, hosted the Chess Empowerment Association tournaments and mentor program, inducted into Foreign Language Honor Societies, earned membership in the National Beta Club, placed first in the Middle Georgia State University Academic Quiz Bowl tournament, and brought home math tournament wins. This activity does not end when school lets out – this summer we have two students studying French and Science through the Governor’s Honors Program and a group of 27 traveled to Belize to experience that country’s history and culture. Not to mention that for the fifth consecutive year, Stratford has earned the *No Place for Hate* designation because of the hard work of our students and faculty.

Middle School students are not far behind in activities and accomplishments with 80 percent of students participating in a school-sponsored sport. This year, 80% of seventh graders earned Duke TIP recognition, including 13 students who were recognized at the state level. Our middle school athletes brought home a number of first place finishes from Georgia Southern University Math Tournament, Luella High School math competition and the Georgia Math League competition. For the second year, the Quiz Bowl team brought home the first place trophy for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival tournament.

Lower School students and staff keep a similar pace as they won regional independent school and congressional district 8 for The Stock Market game, quiz bowl teams competed at the Cherry Blossom Challenge and the math team had a number of top 10 finishes at the Georgia Southwestern Junior Math Tournament. Fifth-grade teacher, Cheryl Griggs, was honored with the WMAZ "My Teacher is Tops" recognition. The second annual STEM night continued to be a favorite event for lower school students and their parents.

Our littlest Eagles are just as busy as the rest of our students. There is always a unique learning opportunity during "Farm Fridays", the Royal Wedding of Q and U, 100th Day, Dr. Seuss's birthday, Preschool Pow Wow and the Mother's Day Tea.

Stratford faculty members received their own honors as both upper school teachers, Susan and Tom Lolis, earned short story publishing honors and art teacher, Anastasia Fink and STEM teacher, Holly Leskovics, were each the recipient of a 2018 Loveday Summer Workshop Grant.

Fine Arts

Stratford theatre department continued with the tradition of including opportunities for students in grades 1-12. The year began with cast/crew members presenting "The Good Doctor" by Neil Simon for the one-act competition. The winter musical, "Seussical", was presented by over 100

cast/crew members from grades 1-12 and the spring production of student-directed scenes featured students from all divisions. Laura Voss was one of five local recipients of the Education Together Teacher Excellence award given by *The Telegraph* during the Golden Eagle awards.

Band students started the year by earning second place and superior ratings at the Stateline Showdown. They also participated in the High School District Honor Jazz Band the UGA JanFest.

Stratford artists were recognized numerous times throughout the year at the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, High Museum High School Art Exhibit Celebration and Cherry Blossom Festival Think Pink drawing contest. In addition, student art was displayed locally at the Museum of Arts and Sciences and the Macon Little Theatre.

For the second year, Stratford hosted Celebrating ART which brought an artist marketplace, student art exhibit/sale, glass pumpkin patch as well as speakers and guest artists to campus.

Athletics

Stratford athletics is comprised of 55 Middle and Upper School teams representing 16 sports. Over 80 percent of students participate in at least one school-sponsored team. Not to mention, the hundreds of Lower and Preschool students who participate in youth sports programs such as football, SISL soccer and basketball.

For 2017-2018, 18 varsity teams competed in state-level competition and the Stratford athletic program was awarded the GHSA Cooperative Spirit Award for Region 7A. Boys tennis repeated their state and area championship title run while girls basketball claimed their three-peat region title and competed in final four at state.

Our high school student-athletes also earned impressive recognition with 14 named to All-Region teams, 21 to All-Area teams, and 10 named to All-State teams. Student-athletes also received recognition as the Macon Touchdown Club Bobby Gene Sanders Scholar-Athlete, Elmo Richardson Player of the Year, Lineman of the Week, and Back of the Week (twice), Georgia High School Football Daily Region 7A Special Teams and Defensive Players of the Year, ALFA Offensive Lineman of the Week, Georgia Farm Bureau Player of the Game, seven nominations for Macon.com Player of the Week, WMAZ Athlete of the Week, and the Boys Basketball Region 7A West Player of the Year.

Stratford coaches were equally honored as Coach Ed Smith reached his 500th win milestone and was named the girls basketball Region 7A Coach of the Year. Also, Coach Jeff Treadway received the University of Georgia Baseball's 2018 Tom Cousins Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award.

Community

While it feels like we spend a great deal of our time at 6010 Peake Road, students also put in many hours in our community. This year, students completed 9,237 community service hours and over half of this year's graduates earned over 100 hours during their high school careers. The fifth annual SOS (Stratford Out Serving) Day in April had students at locations across the city

erving our community. Stratford students also earned some prestigious recognitions for their community involvement including the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the 2018 President's Volunteer Service Award given by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and being named a finalist in the state of Georgia for Prudential Spirit of Community Service award. Schoolwide initiatives were also led by student groups for the following organizations: Ronald McDonald House, American Red Cross, DFACS, Camp Little Shot, Aunt Maggie's Kitchen Table, Jay's Hope, Vine Ingle Little League, United Way of Central Georgia, Macon Outreach, Macon Mentors Project, Brookdale Senior Living Center and Hurricane Harvey relief. The United Way of Central Georgia also honored Stratford faculty/staff as one of the top 50 "Most Generous Workplaces".

Even as we take a summer break between school years, we are planning for exciting opportunities for the future. The start of the 2018-2019 school session will mark our school's 59th year. For the first time in several years, we will not be dedicating a new facility at the start of our school year. This is because you, our loyal supporters, helped us reach our \$4.5 million *Excellence Never Rests* capital campaign goal last December. We were also humbled by the over \$31,000 raised during our first-ever Stratford Day of Giving held at the end of our last school year in May. I cannot wait to see what the next year will hold for each of our students.

Many, many sincere thanks for the time, talents and resources you invest in Stratford Academy and our mission of seeing each student reach his/her fullest potential. Again, I am proud of each and every Stratford student and all that he/she has accomplished this year.

Enjoy the second half of your summer!

Dr. Bob Veto
Head of School