

KAY R. PACE & M. D. ROBERTS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

ELEVATING GREATNESS

A YEAR OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE



MAY 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Kay R. Pace & M.D. Roberts Families and Community,

As we reflect on this year's journey, I am thrilled to share just a few of the many incredible highlights that illustrate the strength, talent, and creativity that define our school. From show-stopping performances to award-winning visual pieces, from competitive athletic achievements to national recognitions, our students continue to demonstrate what is possible when passion meets purpose. This year has been nothing short of remarkable—filled with unforgettable performances, powerful storytelling, inspiring artistry, and championship victories that have showcased the spirit, talent, and excellence of our students and staff. Here are some of the powerful moments that made this school year truly unforgettable:

Music Department

- Our choral, band, guitar, orchestra and piano students continued to set the bar for excellence by earning Straight Superiors at Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE).
- Pace Performers earned Straight Superiors at Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) scored on a middle school rubric.

Dance Department

The energy and precision of our dancers lit up the stage all year.

- Our year-end showcase, Firebird and Sauté, captured the hearts of our audience and demonstrated the technical and creative range of our dancers.

Visual Arts

Our visual artists continue to earn local and national acclaim.

- We launched the county's first National Junior Arts Honor Society at the middle school level. Students completed service projects and exhibited their work at the Arts Clayton Gallery.
- Our visual arts scholars won numerous awards in the county, state, and national level.

Media Arts & Graphic Design

Our media arts program had a banner year of hands-on, real-world learning.

- The Rams TV Film Club produced over 50 original morning broadcasts and supported school-wide event coverage..

Theater Arts

Our theater program continues to inspire with bold storytelling and authentic student voice.

- Student actor Nicholas Willis was cast in the Atlanta Black Theater Festival's production of *A Raisin in the Sun*—a powerful example of the talent cultivated on our stage.
- We're proud to celebrate Jean-Michelle "Jimi" Luttrell, who has earned her role as Cobweb in Georgia Ensemble Theatre's of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- The Musical Theater Competition Team wowed audiences and judges alike with compelling performances throughout the season and earned state and national awards.
- New Program Spotlight! Technical Theatre Program. From lighting and sound to sets, costumes, and stage management, our behind-the-scenes artists are bringing productions to life. Because the magic doesn't just happen on stage—it starts behind it.

Athletics

Our athletic program continues to thrive and grow, showcasing excellence in sportsmanship and competition:

- Swim Team: 1st Place District Champions (Girls) and 3rd Place Combined.
- Roberts Volleyball Reigns Supreme – District & Metro Champs Again!
- From First Whistle to Final Four: The Rise of Pace Soccer Team | Undefeated during the season and made it to the final four.
- Pace Basketball | 5-1 record and made it the final four.

These achievements only scratch the surface of the transformative work happening every day at Kay R. Pace & M.D. Roberts School of the Arts. Behind every trophy, performance, exhibit, and showcase is the heart and commitment of our students, the vision of our teachers, and the unwavering support of our families.

Thank you for believing in the power of the arts and athletics to shape confident, creative, and compassionate leaders.

As principal, I am incredibly proud of the thriving culture of excellence we continue to build—one rooted in creativity, academic rigor, community, and joyful expression. Thank you for another incredible year, and for the privilege of growing greatness together.

With appreciation and pride,



Dr. Lee Buddy Jr.

Proud Principal



ABOUT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Kay R. Pace School of the Arts is to provide a foundation of knowledge for a successful lifetime of learning, through the integration of the arts.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Kay R. Pace School of the Arts is to be a learning community where students achieve high academic standards, develop good citizenship qualities and enhance their artistic expression.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of M.D. Roberts School of the Arts is to be a distinguished school of excellence through the integration of the arts in which all students are college and career ready and prepared to compete in a global society.



ATHLETICS

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our athletic program, which continues to shine on and off the field with drive, dedication, and undeniable talent! Our student-athletes have represented our school with pride, excellence, and championship spirit—and we couldn't be prouder.

Here are just a few of the outstanding highlights from this athletic season:

Swim Team

- **First Place** – Girls Middle School District Champions
- **Third Place** – Combined Middle School Team Overall

Volleyball Team

- Back-to-Back District Champions
- Champions of the Metro Atlanta County Battle

Girls Track Team

- 3rd Place County District Championship
- County Record for Hurdles | Zoey Janvier
- 1st Place 4 x 400 Relay | Zoey Janvier, Jade King, Tamara Ferrell, Aliyah Ahmad

Big Shoutout to Kaydence Adams!

Pace 5th grader Kaydence Adams was named the Region's Soccer Player of the Year! Her skill, drive, and leadership on the field are unmatched — and we couldn't be more proud! Way to represent, Kaydence!

All-County Girls Soccer Game

Huge shoutout to Yaretzy Hernandez, Zoie Reid, and Hope Robinson, who were selected to play in the All-County Girls Soccer Game against APS—and helped secure a 4-0 victory!

DISCIPLINE DATA

77%

decrease of 6th office referrals from last school year.

Track

Congratulations to Alan Huff (2nd grader) for earning 1st place and claiming the title of 2025 District Champion in the 800 meter event! An incredible accomplishment and a proud moment for our school!

Pace Soccer

Congratulations to the Pace Soccer Team for an outstanding season, culminating in a hard-fought appearance in the District Final Four! While the journey ended just short of the championship, the team's dedication, resilience, and teamwork throughout the season were nothing short of inspiring.

Pace Soccer

We are proud to announce that Kaydence Adams, a talented 5th grader at Pace, has been honored as the Region's Soccer Player of the Year! Kaydence's hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication to the game have earned her this prestigious recognition among young athletes across the region. Her achievement is a shining example of what passion and perseverance can accomplish.

Reflecting on this inaugural season, we couldn't be prouder of our players and coaches for representing PACE with unwavering pride, sportsmanship, and heart. What a season — and the best is yet to come!

This year's success is a testament to our athletes' hard work, our coaches' dedication, and the unwavering support from our families and staff.

CELEBRATING INNOVATION & DISCOVERY: SCIENCE SCHOLARS SHINE

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of our young scientists who showcased their talent, curiosity, and innovation through this year's Science Fair and other district and regional science competitions.

Celebrating Violetta Deras – Triple Achievement!

Join us in congratulating Violetta Deras for her outstanding accomplishments across academics and the arts:

- 🌟 2nd Place – County Science Fair
- 🌟 2nd Place – Who's Got Games? Math Competition (with her original game, Rocket Math)
- 🌟 1st Place – World Language Art Competition

Violetta's creativity, intellect, and dedication continue to shine brightly across disciplines. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and can't wait to see what she accomplishes next!



SCIENCE FAIR SUCCESS

Our annual School & District Science Fair was a showcase of imagination and inquiry, with projects spanning environmental science, biology, engineering, and more. Students demonstrated critical thinking, research skills, and creativity as they investigated real-world problems and proposed meaningful solutions.

Monique Mayes | 1st Place in County Science Fair & Advanced to State Competition

Topic: Build a biodegraded kit to help the earth get rid of plastic waste

Zyion Miles | 1st Place in County Science Fair & 3rd Place in State Competition

Topic: Build a device to help detect an oncoming heart issue based on the pulse

Ayden Whitaker | 3rd Place in County Science Fair

Skylar Bell | 3rd Place in County Science Fair

Brielle Kimbrough | 3rd Place in County Science Fair

Carson Kemp & Tahj Anderson-Gordon | 3rd Place in County Science Fair

Topic: Created a robot that can help with recycling

Jasmine Fuller | 2nd Place in County Science Fair



Beyond the Fair: Other Science Achievements

Our science program continues to cultivate leaders in STEM through various events and competitions.

Aaliyah Williams | 1st Place | 6th grade | Water Tower Competition

Kendalyn Hillman & Elijah Atwater | 2nd Place | 6th grade | Water Tower Competition

Braden Gailey | Science Olympiad | Earned 3 3rd Place Medals

Lumleakborey Rim | 1st Place Georgia Aquarium T-Shirt Design Winner

Kimirah Piercy | 2nd Place Georgia Aquarium T-Shirt Design Winner

Malik Ousley | 3rd Place Georgia Aquarium T-Shirt Design Winner

This year's science experiences at M.D. Roberts went far beyond the textbook. Through hands-on experiments, real-world applications, and collaborative investigations, our students not only deepened their understanding of scientific principles — they also grew as critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and forward-thinking innovators. Whether designing solutions in STEM challenges, exploring environmental systems, or engaging in inquiry-based labs, our scholars embraced the scientific process with enthusiasm and excellence.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication shown by our students, the passion of our teachers, and the support of our mentors who continue to raise the bar in STEM education. Their combined efforts have created an environment where curiosity thrives and confidence grows. The future of science is not only bright at M.D. Roberts — it's already shining through the achievements of our young scholars.

EXCITING ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the incredible achievement of our student historians who excelled in this year's National History Day (NHD) County Competition. Their hard work, research skills, and creativity truly set them apart as young scholars and storytellers of the past.

National History Day is a nationally recognized academic competition that challenges students to conduct original research on historical topics related to an annual theme. Students present their findings through various formats such as exhibits, documentaries, performances, papers, and websites—showcasing both analytical thinking and artistic expression. Our students embraced this year's theme with outstanding projects and impressive presentations.

Please join us in congratulating the following winners:

- Group Performance Award | Best in Fair | "The Black Power Salute"
Morgan Sinkfield, Kyndall Gibson, Sophia Thatch, Tori Neloms

- Group Website Award | 2nd Place | "The Tuskegee Airman"
Austin Hall, Harmony Brady, Vernez Warner, and Monique Mayes

- Paper Category Award | Best in Fair | "Rights and Responsibilities in History; Rights of Coloreds"
Arianne Cambell

- Paper Category Award | First Place | "Rights and Responsibilities: Rights of Coloreds in America"
Desiree Davis

- Documentary Category Award | Best in Fair | "The Sound of Freedom" | Megan Henley

- Group Documentary Award | Best in Fair | "What is it today?"
Ayden Whitaker, Jonah Whaley, Anthony Sanchez-Fuentes, Deron Ingram

- Group Exhibit Award | 2nd Place | "Women's Right to Work" | Carson Kemp, Jessica Woods, Jakayla Woods, Peyton Topper, Genesis Dennison

- Individual Exhibit Award | Best in Fair | "Women's Suffrage" | Noelle Dawson

- Individual Exhibit Award | 1st Place | "Women's Suffrage Movement" | Mariah Heath
- Individual Exhibit Award | 2nd Place | "Jackie Robinson" | Umair Salifu
- Individual Exhibit Award | 3rd Place | "Loving Vs. Virginia" | Emani McEachin
- Honorable Mention Award | "Ruby Bridges: The Responsibility One Little Girl Carried to Gain Rights for Many" | Amya Daniel

These students demonstrated deep understanding, exceptional research, and innovative presentation skills. Their achievements at the county level speak to their dedication and the strength of our academic programs at M.D. Roberts School of the Arts. We also extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated teachers and mentors who guided students through this rigorous and rewarding experience. Let's give a round of applause to our scholars for making history come alive. We can't wait to see where their academic journey takes them next.

We are so proud to announce the following students advanced to the State Competition for National History Day on April 26th at LaGrange College.

- Tori Neloms | Black Power Salute
- Morgan Sinkfield | Black Power Salute
- Sophia Thatch | Black Power Salute
- Kyndall Gibson | Black Power Salute
- Megan Henley | The Sound of Freedom
- Mariah Heath | Women's Suffrage Movement
- Anthony Sanchez-Fuentes | Bikini Atoll: What is it Today?
- Ayden Whitaker | Bikini Atoll: What is it Today?
- Deron Ingram | Bikini Atoll: What is it Today?
- Jonah Whaley | Bikini Atoll: What is it Today?



Jr. Beta Club Continues to Soar

The M. D. Roberts School of the Arts Junior Beta Club is proud to celebrate a year of excellence and service as our Beta Club continues to shine on a national level during the 2024–2025 school year!

- 🎉 Fifth Year as a School of Distinction
- 🎉 Sixth Year as a School of Merit
- 🎉 All-Star Service Hour Award

These honors reflect our students' commitment to academic achievement, leadership, character, and service. We're so proud of the positive impact they're making in our school and community. Way to go, Beta Club! Keep leading, serving, and striving for greatness!



Celebrating Student Creativity at the Hear Our Voices Competition! 🎵

We are so proud of our incredible students from Clayton County Public Schools who participated in the Hear Our Voices Competition! This competition is designed to provide students with a platform to share their stories, perspectives, and creativity through music, poetry, and spoken word. It empowers young voices to express themselves and fosters a deep appreciation for the arts, diversity, and community engagement.

By participating, our students are not just showcasing their talent—they're contributing to important conversations about identity, culture, and the world around us. Huge congratulations to all participants for their courage, creativity, and commitment to making their voices heard!

Hear Our Voices Finalists:

- Venice Gresham | 1st Place - Essay
- Leah Ramirez | 1st Place- Poetry
- Olivia Deras-King | 2nd Place - Multimedia
- Ashton Foster, Autumn Miller, Kendra Howard | 2nd Place - Spoken Word
- Abel Van Sichem | 1st Place- Poetry
- Olivya-Rose Reed | 1st Place- Poetry

Celebrating Black History Month

As the culmination of their Black History studies, first grade scholars presented performances inspired by a celebrated African American artist. Through music, movement, and storytelling, they honored the artist's legacy and illuminated the profound cultural contributions to American history. Their creativity and enthusiasm infused the lessons with a profound and captivating impact.

Congratulations to Our National History Day State Qualifiers!

We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievement of the following students who have advanced to the state level of the National History Day contest:

Ayden Whitaker, Jonah Whaley, Anthony Sanchez, and Deron Ingram

Their hard work, dedication, and passion for history have earned them this prestigious opportunity to compete among the best in the state. We commend their efforts and wish them continued success as they represent our school at the next level. Your commitment to excellence is an inspiration to us all—congratulations!

Math Spotlight

We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible work of our students and their leader in the Challenge 24 Competition! From a building-wide tournament to the district-level challenge, our team showed sharp thinking and strong math skills every step of the way.

Special shoutout to our 6th grade students who made it all the way to the semi-final round (3rd out of 4 rounds) at the district level—what an impressive run! Thank you Ms. Laster for serving as the 6th grade chairperson and Challenge 24 lead teacher for Roberts.

History Bowl

Congratulations to Mrs. Calloway & Mr. Screen and the History Quiz Bowl Team! We proudly congratulate Mrs. Calloway and the History Quiz Bowl Team for their impressive performance at the district competition, where they earned a 4th place finish!

This dedicated group of students demonstrated teamwork, critical thinking, and a deep knowledge of history throughout the event. We applaud their hard work and commitment:

Megan Henley; Matthew Hall; Ariel Bernard; Madison Hall; Brayden Gayley; Taylor Clanton

Your accomplishment reflects the spirit of academic excellence we value. Well done, team!

Celebrating Our Exceptional Scholars

This year's Exceptional Children's Week was a truly meaningful celebration of inclusion, understanding, and the unique strengths of our exceptional education scholars. Our week was filled with purposeful learning, thoughtful reflection, and joyful community-building moments that honored the voices and experiences of our students.

 To begin the week, students and staff read the book *I See Things Differently*, a powerful story that helps explain how individuals with Autism experience the world. Through this reading, we explored both the strengths and challenges that people with Autism may face, promoting empathy and awareness across our school.

 We also viewed the film *Finding Dory*, which sparked insightful conversations about Dory's journey and her challenges with short-term memory loss. The movie helped our scholars connect emotionally and intellectually with the experiences of others, reinforcing the importance of understanding and acceptance.

 In a special gesture of support, our principal, Dr. Buddy, provided Autism Awareness T-shirts for scholars and teachers in the FAU and SID/PID classrooms. This visual show of unity made our celebration even more impactful.

 The week culminated in a joyful catered lunch from Olive Garden and a sweet ice cream social, generously sponsored by the DES Department. This event brought together students and staff from all low incidence classrooms, offering an opportunity for socializing, bonding, and celebration in a warm and welcoming environment.

We are proud to honor and uplift our exceptional education scholars, whose resilience, brilliance, and spirit enrich our school community each and every day. Let's continue to advocate for awareness, inclusion, and the celebration of all learners at M.D. Roberts.

Computer Science Scholars

Kudos to our amazing students in Computer Science class. Over the course of two weeks, they dove into the world of music production and web development—and the results were incredible!

Using EarSketch, students created original songs by arranging loops and experimenting with sound design. They also gained hands-on experience with Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)—editing, mixing, and exporting tracks like pros!

But that's not all—they built their own websites using Google Sites to showcase their music, blending tech skills with creativity. Through this project, they strengthened their digital literacy, tackled challenges with creative problem-solving, and worked together as collaborative creators.

Delta Community Credit Union Youth Essay Contest

We are excited to share and celebrate the exceptional achievements of two of our outstanding students who were recently recognized as winners of the Delta Community Credit Union Youth Essay Contest!

Please join us in congratulating:

- Hannah-Lisa Shreves – 4th Grade Winner
- Aaron Copeland – 5th Grade Winner

The Delta Community Youth Essay Contest is a prestigious writing competition that encourages young students to express their thoughts, creativity, and critical thinking through written word. Participants were asked to respond to a thought-provoking prompt designed to inspire reflection and goal-setting—valuable skills for future leaders.

Hannah-Lisa and Aaron stood out among their peers with their thoughtful essays, compelling ideas, and strong writing skills. Their work not only impressed the contest judges, but also brought great pride to our school community.

We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment and look forward to seeing what they continue to achieve as young scholars and communicators. Please join us in celebrating these young authors for their excellence and determination!



PACE PERFORMERS ARE SHINING BRIGHT!



We're so proud to celebrate our talented students who continue to raise the bar in music education:

 **Straight Superiors** at Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE)

 5 students represented Pace at the Elementary Statewide Honor Chorus—a major accomplishment showcasing vocal excellence on a statewide stage!

 26 students took part in the Clayton County Elementary Honor Choir Workshop, growing their skills and representing our school with pride!

 And we're not done yet...

Coming Soon: Pace Performers will take the national stage at the 2025 American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) National Conference—a huge honor and incredible opportunity to perform among the best in the country. Let's give a round of applause to these young musicians!

Congratulations to Our Pace Talented Visual Artists!

Our Visual Arts Department continues to soar—earning awards and recognition both locally and nationally! These incredible student artists are using their creativity, vision, and skill to make a powerful impact through their work. From local showcases to national competitions, their achievements are a testament to their passion and dedication to the arts.

Check out of some of our accomplishments:

2025 DISPLAYS School of the Arts Visual Art Show at Arts Clayton Gallery in collaboration with M. D. Roberts and Martha Ellen Stilwell Vertical Alignment) 60+ works

2025 DISPLAYS Kennesaw State PACE Exhibit Extended until Fall

2025 DISPLAYS Georgia Capitol GAEA Art Show

2025 First Place Winner in State, Harrison Reese, 5th Grade. "Georgia Wildlife Competition"

2025 Second Place Winner in State, Sophia Ortega, 1st Grade, "Georgia Wildlife Competition"

2025 Third Place Winner in State, Zoey Murray, Kindergarten, "Georgia Wildlife Competition"

Check out of some of our accomplishments:

- 2025** Second Place Winner in District for CCPS Math Art Competition, Jordyn Monroe, 4th Grade, 3D Clay
- 2025** First Place Winner in State, Jalee Jackson, 5th grade GBI's National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Madison Delevoe, 5th Grade, 3-5 3D
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Elyse Lazzaro, 1st Grade, K-2 Photography
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Oaklyn Gray, 1st Grade, K-2 Digital
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Ishmael Finch, 2nd Grade, K-2 2D
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Eve Bo, 2nd Grade, K-2 Photography
- 2025** Third Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Ayden Louis, 5th Grade, 3-5 Digital
- 2025** Third Place Winner in District All County Art Contest, Sevyn Longshore, 1st Grade, K-2 3D
- 2025** HM Winner in District All County Art Contest, Jalee Jackson, 5th Grade, 3-5 Digital
- 2025** Second Place Winner in District, Savannah Miles, School Bus Safety Contest
- 2024** CCPS District winner for Magnet Schools of America Poster Contest, Isabella Ortiz, artwork to State

We're beyond proud of their success and can't wait to see where their talents take them next!

Big News! The Urban Arts Club is taking creativity global!

We're thrilled to announce our participation in an International Student Exchange Music Collaboration with the Heal the Hood Project from South Africa!

Through this powerful partnership, our students will connect across continents, sharing music, culture, and creativity—proving once again that art is a universal language. In the Urban Arts Club for winning 3rd Place 2025 PBIS Versuz Challenge Competition. Stay tuned for updates as this global collaboration unfolds!



🎭 **Setting the Stage for Excellence!**

The award-winning Musical Theater Competition Team at Kay R. Pace School of the Arts continues to shine as a powerful force of creativity, talent, and dedication. With each performance, our students showcase their passion and professionalism—bringing stories to life with heart, precision, and an undeniable stage presence. We are pleased to announce that Kay Pace School of the Arts Musical Theater Competition Team (MTCT) led by Molly Knowles emerged victorious in the 2025 National Youth Theater Experience Competition. This achievement was accomplished against 18 other theater groups, including numerous high school teams. The National Youth Theater Experience Competition held March 7-9, 2025, at the Brown Theater in Louisville, Kentucky, celebrated and honored outstanding student-driven musical theater programs for over 2000 students.

The group achieved 1st place- *Overall Exceptional Performance, Excellence in Ensemble Vocals, and Magical Moment-Circle of Life Awards*. Furthermore, MTCT received numerous accolades at the competition, including several individual performance awards.

Individual Awards

- All Stars | Laylah Lewis & Harrison Reese (1st)
- Tech All Stars | Kenadee Goodwin (1st)
- Best Featured Actor | Harley Strickland (1st)
- Best Solo Vocal | Harrison Reese (3rd)
- Best Elementary Monologues | Brooklyn Picket (3rd)

MTCT participated in the national Junior Theatre Festival at the Cobb Galleria Centre. MTCT premiered a groundbreaking Broadway Jr. Musical adaptation of Chelsea Clinton's acclaimed book, "She Persisted." This prestigious festival provided an invaluable platform for our scholars to showcase their talents on the main stage before an audience of over 6,000 individuals.

Awards

- All Star Awards | Harrison Reese and Kaydence Adams
- Excellence in Ensemble-Lion King Jr.
- Choreography Video Call backs: Cai Harden, Clarke Coleman, Layla Lewis, Skye Golden

The Kay Pace Musical Theater Competition Team consistently elevates the standards of excellence in the performing arts. Beyond their artistic prowess, they embody leadership, innovation, and the unwavering pursuit of excellence.



WHERE PASSION MEETS PERFORMANCE!

The award-winning Dance Program at Kay R. Pace School of the Arts continues to captivate audiences with its artistry, discipline, and innovation. Renowned for producing technically skilled and emotionally expressive dancers, our program empowers students to shine on stage and beyond—one powerful performance at a time. Pace School of the Arts Dance Company proudly competed in the prestigious League of Champions Dance Competition, earning recognition across multiple categories:

- 1st Place Overall | Jazz Group Future Champion Division
- High Gold Award & Special Judges Award | Lyrical Group Junior Division
- Showmanship Award | “One Night Only” Jazz
- Platinum Award | “One Night Only”
- Showmanship Award | “Homesick” Lyrical
- Platinum Award | “Homesick” Lyrical
- Platinum Award | “Combative” Jazz
- 2nd place Top score | “Homesick” Lyrical



Six Flag Music in the Parks Competition

Our talented students competed in the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags—a prestigious, national competition where school music groups perform for professional adjudicators and compete against schools from across the region.

We're thrilled to announce that Pace & Roberts won the following awards:

- Pace Percussives | Superior | 1st Place
- Pace Performers | Superior Ratings | 1st Place
- Pace Band | Excellent Ratings | 1st Place
- Roberts 6th Band | Excellent | First Place
- Roberts Voices of Transcendence Chorus | Superior Rating | 2nd Place
- Connor Donaldson | Outstanding Stand Out Award

This festival not only celebrates musical excellence, but also offers students an unforgettable experience by combining performance, feedback from expert judges, and a fun-filled day at the park. Way to go, artists—you've made us proud!

Roberts Visual Arts Scholars

We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of our Visual Arts Program—a dynamic and inspiring space where creativity thrives, student voices shine, and artistic excellence is nurtured every day.

This year, our program reached exciting new heights in innovation, leadership, and community impact. Here's a look at some of the incredible accomplishments that made this year one to remember.

Program Milestones & Student Achievements

Our visual arts department proudly launched the county's first National Junior Art Honor Society at the middle school level. These student leaders spearheaded two meaningful service projects—collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and creating artwork to sell at the school's art show to benefit foster care.

Students began the year with a cultural art project inspired by the Huichol region of Mexico, creating vibrant yarn paintings using supplies funded by a previous DonorsChoose grant.

We hosted our first-ever student art show, where students became entrepreneurs—selling their artwork and conducting live demonstrations for the community.

Parent Clay Night was a resounding success, bringing families together to create pottery pieces that were later fired and glazed in our kiln.

Congratulations to Nathaniel Bedford (8th grade) who won 1st place in the district Magnet Schools of America poster contest for the middle level—his work is now advancing to the national level!

Our program had a strong presence at the Arts Clayton Gallery Spring Exhibition with student artwork featured from across grade levels. Special recognition goes to Soleil Dixon and Cassidy McCray for selling their artwork at the gallery.

Student Aniyah Hayes was featured by the Skutt Kiln Company—her clay rattle artwork was shared online as an exemplary student piece.

Our artists excelled at the All-County Art Show:

- Nathaniel Bedford – 2nd Place, 2-D
- Cassidy McCray – 3rd Place, 2-D
- Lunleakbory Rim – Honorable Mention
- Venice Gresham – 1st Place, 3-D



Professional Leadership & Advocacy

Visual Arts Educator Ms. Todd presented at the Association of Middle Level Educators National Conference in Nashville, sharing insights on interdisciplinary learning. While there, she met internationally recognized quilters from Gees Bend, Alabama.

Through her dedication to grant writing, Ms. Todd secured over \$2,100 in materials—enhancing learning opportunities and giving our students access to high-quality supplies and tools.

We are so proud of our student artists, their incredible accomplishments, and the impact they continue to make in our school and beyond. Their work is a testament to the power of the arts to inspire, lead, and create change.

🎹 Keys to Excellence: Spotlight on Our Award-Winning Piano Program

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of our talented pianists in the Piano Program, who recently participated in the 2025 Giocosso Guitar & Piano Festival—a prestigious event that showcases young musicians from across the region.

Our students represented our school with excellence, earning top scores and recognition for their hard work, artistry, and musical growth.

Festival Results

8th Grade:

Superior Ratings

Christian Harris
Makenzie Hodges
Mason Sayavong

Excellent Ratings

Jessie Barrera-Perez
Tayton Nguyen
Minh-Hy Tran
Braden Gailey

7th Grade:

Superior Ratings

James Hall

Excellent Ratings

Aliyah Miller
Nalaya Baker

6th Grade:

Excellent Ratings

Colby Reese
Amya Daniel
Avaya Guallett
Sofia Martinez-Figueroa
Bryson Jackson



These accolades are a reflection of the dedication and perseverance of our young musicians and the strong instructional support they receive through our piano program. We are so proud of each student's commitment to excellence in performance and artistry. Please join us in applauding their success and continued growth as rising musicians!

Strumming Toward Excellence!

We are excited to share the exceptional accomplishments of our Roberts Guitar Program, which continues to impress and inspire through musical excellence and meaningful performance opportunities.

This year, our talented student musicians in the 7th & 8th Grade Combined Guitar Ensemble have earned well-deserved recognition at both regional and state levels:

2025 Giocoso Guitar & Piano Festival

Our ensemble received an **Overall Superior Rating**—the highest possible honor—for their skillful and expressive performance.

LeadGuitar Showcase Concert at the University of Georgia

The group was selected as featured Performers, representing our school with pride on a prestigious stage among other top music programs.

These achievements reflect not only the hard work and dedication of our young guitarists, but also the strength of our growing guitar program and the support of our school community. Please join us in congratulating our students and their instructors for a truly remarkable year of music-making!

Celebrating the Remarkable Success of our Roberts School of the Arts Choral Program!

It is with great pride and joy that we highlight the outstanding accomplishments of our **Choral Program**—a true example of musical excellence, artistry, and community engagement.

This school year has been filled with inspiring moments, unforgettable performances, and well-deserved recognition for our talented vocalists and dedicated choral directors.

Program Highlights

Women of Velocity, our newly launched women's treble choir, made a phenomenal debut—earning **Straight Superior Ratings** in both **Performance and Sight Reading** at the **Large Group Performance Evaluations (LGPE)**.

Voices of Transcendence also achieved remarkable success, receiving a **Superior Rating for Performance** and **Excellence in Sight Reading at LGPE**.

Our students proudly participated in the Georgia Music Educators Association's District VII Honor Choir, showcasing their talents alongside top young vocalists from across the region.

Choral Program

Our program was honored to be the featured choir at the Omni Hotel's Christmas Tree Lighting in Atlanta—bringing the joy of the season to a city-wide audience.

And a special shoutout to Kaylin Dorjee, who was invited to sing the National Anthem at the Moon Festival for the City of Morrow—an extraordinary recognition of her vocal excellence.

These achievements reflect the dedication, discipline, and passion of our student performers and the visionary leadership of our choral faculty. Together, they continue to elevate the standard of excellence in vocal music education. Please join us in applauding our amazing vocal scholars for an unforgettable year!

Big Wins & Even Bigger Talent – Celebrating Our Band Program!

We are thrilled to share the amazing accomplishments of our M. D. Roberts School of the Arts Band Program—a shining example of musical excellence, discipline, and artistic passion! From local stages to prestigious state competitions, our student musicians continue to raise the bar.

Here's what makes this year so extraordinary:

- ✔ Two of our outstanding band students earned a place in the highest-level District Honor Band through the All-State competition—and advanced to the final state cut for All-State recognition!
- ✔ Our 7th and 8th Grade Symphonic Bands received straight superior ratings at the 2025 Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE)—the highest possible distinction!
- ✔ Every musician in the 8th Grade Symphonic Band gave exemplary solo and ensemble performances during this spring's 8th Grade Recital, showcasing their growth and artistry.
- ✔ The 6th Grade Advanced Band has been selected to compete at the Southern Star Festival at Six Flags, a fantastic opportunity to perform and represent our school on a larger stage!

We couldn't be prouder of our dedicated students, supportive families, and exceptional band directors who continue to inspire greatness through music. Bravo to all of our young artists—your hard work is music to our ears!

Bravo to Our Orchestra Program! 🎵

We're thrilled to announce that Roberts Strings on Fire, our outstanding orchestra ensemble, earned a Superior Rating in both Performance and Sight Reading at the 2025 Large Group Performance Evaluations!

This recognition reflects the dedication, discipline, and musical excellence of our student musicians and their incredible director. Their hard work and artistry continue to set a high standard for excellence in the arts at M.D. Roberts School of the Arts. Congratulations to Strings on Fire on this well-deserved honor!

Roberts Theater

Spotlight on Excellence: Theater Scholar Nicholas Willis Cast in Atlanta Black Theater Festival Production! We are proud to shine a spotlight on Nicholas Willis—who has achieved an incredible milestone in his artistic journey. Nicholas has been cast in the prestigious production of *A Raisin in the Sun* with the Atlanta Black Theater Festival, one of the nation's leading celebrations of Black theater and culture. This powerful production will take place in Macon, Georgia, offering Nicholas a remarkable opportunity to perform on a professional stage among accomplished artists. This honor is a testament to Nicholas's dedication, discipline, and undeniable talent in the dramatic arts. His achievement reflects the high standard of excellence we strive for in our theater program and serves as an inspiration to aspiring performers across our community.

In addition, we're thrilled to share that Jean-Michelle "Jimi" Luttrell has landed her first paid acting role, cast as Cobweb in Georgia Ensemble Theatre's upcoming summer production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! This exciting milestone marks a new chapter in Jimi's blossoming performing arts journey, and we couldn't be more proud of her talent, dedication, and hard work. Bravo, Nicholas & Jimi — the stage is yours!

Media Arts

We are thrilled to spotlight the Media Arts Department for an incredible year of innovation, creativity, and real-world achievement. From competition awards to hands-on production, our students have proven they are future leaders in the world of digital media and visual communication.

Art Show Accolade

Please join us in congratulating Ahaviah King, who earned 3rd place in the Clayton County Art Show for Digital Design—a tremendous recognition of her artistic vision and technical expertise!



Rams TV Film Club Highlights

Since January 2025, our Rams TV Film Club has produced over 50 original morning shows, skillfully covering school events, student life, and key announcements. Students have taken on professional production roles such as:

- Director
- Camera Operator
- On-Air Talent
- Video Editor
- Floor Director

These experiences provide invaluable exposure to real-world broadcasting and storytelling.

Industry Exposure: Field Trips & Projects

In February, Media Arts students visited Trilith Studios, one of the premier media production facilities in the country. This field trip offered an exclusive look at professional film and television production and inspired students to explore diverse media careers.

Students also documented various school events—capturing photos and video for assemblies, performances, and classroom showcases.

Creative Collaboration

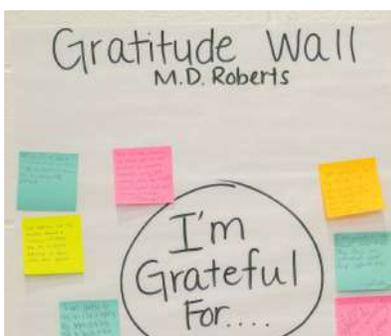
Our Media Arts students partnered with faculty and staff to design promotional flyers and digital graphics for school-wide events. These projects gave students hands-on experience with Photoshop, Canva, and digital layout design, while strengthening their client communication and project management skills.

This year's success is a testament to the hard work, vision, and collaborative spirit of both our students and our dedicated Media Arts educators. We are incredibly proud of all they've accomplished—and excited to see what they'll create next!



Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Greatness

We invited our students and families to contribute to our Gratitude Wall by sharing what makes them proud and thankful to be part of our school—and the responses were truly breathtaking. From heartfelt notes of appreciation to inspiring reflections on growth, friendship, and creativity, our wall became a powerful testament to the love and pride that fill our halls each day.



Some of the responses include:

- I am grateful to be honored at this amazing VIP Dinner. I love this school- fantastic teachers.
- I love that my child is excited to come to school each day.
- Thank you for making my little one great at Pace.
- I am grateful that your team continues to provide useful resources to empower me to help my child.
- I really enjoy attending Ms. Boyd's classes.
- I am grateful for the hardest working principal in Clayton County.
- I'm grateful for the amazing community of teachers at Kay Pace. This is my family.
- I am grateful for this amazing time.
- I really love Ms. Pressley. She is the best teacher.
- I am grateful for Ms. Jackson going above and beyond for parents.
- I am grateful for Dr. Buddy and all that he does for the school.
- I'm grateful for amazing Roberts teachers.
- I am grateful for this amazing school of the arts community of artist.
- I am proud to be part of this community.
- I am grateful for life, my teachers, and my family.
- I am thankful for Ms. Knowles. She really cares about me.
- I am thankful for amazing parent liaisons that provide meaningful resources each week
- I am grateful to be able to play sports this school year.



Together We Thrive: Celebrating Our Families and Community Connections

At Kay R. Pace & M.D. Roberts School of the Arts, we know that strong family partnerships are key to student success—and this year, we were proud to offer a variety of parent engagement events and workshops designed to celebrate, empower, and connect with our amazing school community.

Here's a look at some of the meaningful experiences we shared:

📖 Literacy Family Night – Families came together to explore reading strategies and enjoy interactive literacy games that support learning at home.

📊 GMAS Parent Night – Parents received valuable insight and tools to help prepare their students for state testing success.

🗣️ Monthly Principal Chat and Chew – These informal gatherings gave families a chance to ask questions, share feedback, and build relationships with staff in a relaxed setting.

🎉 Family Ball – A joyful celebration that honored our families and strengthened our community through music, dancing, and fun!

👑 VIP Parent Celebration – We recognized our most engaged and dedicated families for their ongoing support and involvement.

🧠 Parent Workshops – Topics included managing stress, supporting your child in math, financial literacy, improving study habits, and tips for academic success. These sessions provided practical tools and encouragement to help our families thrive.

Each event was a reflection of our commitment to making Kay R. Pace & M.D. Roberts a true community school, where families are informed, involved, and inspired. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who showed up, asked questions, and partnered with us this year.



