

Georgia Council for the Social Studies
2020 State Social Studies Fair
Regular and Special Awards

(Special thanks to the directing teachers for going the extra mile this year, to the 48 judges who volunteered their time and work, and to those who provided adaptations for the online process.)

Best in Online Fair

(This project was selected as the top project of the 85 projects entered in the 2020 Online GCSS Georgia State Social Studies Fair.)

“Why is Recess Important to Elementary Children?”

Talin Hawkins

Dunwoody Elementary School

DeKalb County Schools

Mrs. Tulani Futch, Directing Teacher

Best in Virtual Fair

(These students competed in an alternative fair for Georgia Virtual School students and students with competition conflicts hosted by Georgia Virtual School and sponsored by Social Studies School Service.)

“To What Extent Are Reforms to the U.S. Senate Filibuster Necessary?”

Ben Hempker and Camille Argarin

South Forsyth High School

Forsyth County Schools

Brian Fahey, Directing Teacher

The remainder of the awards in this document were achieved by students whose projects were submitted via email by their directing teachers to the 2020 Online GCSS Georgia State Social Studies Fair.

Best in Class I

“How Do Module Applications Present Risks to our Privacy?”

Seynab Said

Idlewood Elementary School

DeKalb County Schools

Ms. Evangeline Anoka, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I Anthropology

“A Whale of a Tale”

Huck Wallace

Creekland Middle School

Cherokee County Schools

Denise Shaw, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I Economics

“Do People Know Where Their Tax Dollars Go?”

John Palmieri

Hasty Elementary School

Cherokee County Schools

Kate Messerly, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I Geography (Tie)

“Bermuda Triangle”

Addison Brady and Brylee Rein

May Howard Elementary School

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools

Pam Novak, Directing Teacher

“How Plastic Affects Our World”

Francis Hennecy

Wadsworth Magnet School

DeKalb County Schools

Katherine Roseberry, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I History

“What Kind of Clothes Were Popular in the 1880’S?”

Jake Merritt and JaCorien Lester

Idlewood Elementary School

DeKalb County Schools

Evangeline Anoka, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I Political Science

“How Technology Has Changed War for Soldiers”

Nicholas Sansone

Carmel Elementary

Cherokee County Schools

Julie Ziemecki, Directing Teacher

Best in Class I Sociology/Social Psychology

“Who were the Women Heroes of World War II and What Impact Did They Make?”

Heidi Boudreaux

Bascomb Elementary

Cherokee County Schools

Sonya Turner, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II

“How Has Baseball Impacted Modern American Culture?”

Jordan Miller and Braden Lightsey

Griffin Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Clint Podell, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Anthropology

“Does Music Have Therapeutic Benefits?”

Jeremiah McCall

Griffin Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Clint Podell, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Economics

“The Effects of Socioeconomics and Academic Performance in Georgia”

Lauren Glover and Chelsea Williams

Liberty Middle School

Newton County Schools

Angel West, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Geography

“How do wedding ceremonies differ between USA,
Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia?”

Elizabeth Ryan and Karuna Damie

Ridgeview Charter Middle School

Fulton County Schools

Tia Lemon, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II History

“British Colonization’s Effect on U.S. Government and Law”

John Lampros

Pine Mountain Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Jeffrey Hofmeister, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Political Science

“The Impact of Hands-Free Driving Laws”

Isaiah Kendrick

Elite Scholars Academy

Clayton County Schools

Elizabeth Hooper, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Sociology/Social Psychology (Tie)

“Fake News: How Does it Affect Our Perception of the Truth?”

Haylie Murphy

Griffin Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Joshua Wonders, Directing Teacher

Best in Class II Sociology/Social Psychology (continued)

“Meatless Meats: Future Food or Vegan Delusion”
Dhruv Anupindi, Aditya Harathi, and Shashank Ramireddy
Riverwatch Middle School
Forsyth County Schools
Ms. Lindsey Burnsed, Directing Teacher

Best in Class III

“The Legacy of the Vikings”
Emily Grady
Houston County High School
Houston County Schools
Jennifer McDaniel, Directing Teacher

Best in Class III Anthropology (none entered)

Best in Class III Economics

“How Does a Country’s Clean Water Policies & Regulation
Impact the Country’s Standard of Living?”
Frank George and Brower Zhang
Herschel V. Jenkins High School
Savannah-Chatham County Schools
Susan Cole Mullis, Directing Teacher

Best in Class III Geography

“Disney . . . Is it a Diverse World After All?”

Courtney Johnson and Camille Johnson

Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts

Clayton County Schools

Marc DiTomasso, Directing Teacher

Best in Class III History

“The Albany Civil Rights Movement”

Michael Thomas McKinney

Westover Comprehensive High School

Dougherty County Schools

Mrs. Kathy Hardison, Directing Teacher

Best in Class III Political Science (none checked in)

Best in Class III Sociology/Social Psychology (Tie)

“Demographic Characteristics of Teen Vaping”

Lindsay Ruhl

Henry W. Grady High School

Atlanta Public Schools

Andrew Copeland, Directing Teacher

(Best in Class III Sociology continued)

“Gray Versus Black or White”

Seyanna Castro and Carly McCoy

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Jennifer McDaniel, Directing Teacher

Best in Class IV

“One Day, One Election: An Analysis of America’s Primary System”

Michelle Wu, Sri Pinnamareddy, and Minjae Kim

Lambert High School

Forsyth County Schools

Jennifer Wilson, Directing Teacher

Best in Class IV Economics (none checked in)

Best in Class IV Geography

“An Exploration into How Food Deserts Fuel Today’s Crime Rates and
How to Alleviate Both Pressing Issues”

Rhett Seitz and Victoria Ashley

Northside High School

Muscogee County High School

Heather Riganti, Directing Teacher

Best in Class IV History

“Newton vs. Leibnitz: Two Independent Discoveries
That Shaped Mathematics”

Emma Ringe

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Lauren Nguyen, Directing Teacher

Best in Class IV Political Science

“Watergate: How it Influenced America”

Jimmy Vu

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Lauren Nguyen, Directing Teacher

Best in Class IV Sociology/Social Psychology

“Propaganda in the Digital Age: The Rise and Fall
of Cambridge Analytica”

Rumi Jung Lee

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Lauren Nguyen, Directing Teacher

Georgia Council for the Social Studies
2020 State Social Studies Fair
Special Awards

(The Special Awards are awards that have been added to the regular awards over the 50+ years of Georgia Social Studies Fairs by social studies-related agencies and individuals. The agencies and individuals determine how the recipients are chosen.)

Jerald Ledbetter Special Award for Archaeology
Society for Georgia Archaeology

“How did the Nile River affect the Ancient Egyptians?”

Lincoln Maloney

Pine Mountain Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Casey Taylor, Directing Teacher

Jerald Ledbetter Special Award for Archaeology
Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists

“Finders Keepers: Should Mungo Man Have Been Reburied?”

Alex Watkins

Freedom Middle School

Cherokee County Schools

Anna Trull, Directing Teacher

Georgia Council on Economic Education Award

“How Does a Country’s Clean Water Policies and Regulation Impact the Country’s Standard of Living?”

Frank George and Brower Zhang

Herschel V. Jenkins High School

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools

Susan Cole Mullis, Directing Teacher

Georgia State University Department of Geosciences Award

“Disney . . . Is It A Diverse World After All?”

Courtney Johnson and Camille Johnson

Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts

Clayton County Schools

Marc DiTomaso, Directing Teacher

Friends of Georgia Archives and History Award

“The Albany Civil Rights Movement”

Michael McKinney

Westover Comprehensive High School

Dougherty County Schools

Mrs. Kathy Hardison, Directing Teacher

Georgia Center for Civic Engagement (State YMCA) Award

“How Technology Has Changed War for Soldiers”

Nicholas Sansone

Carmel Elementary

Cherokee County Schools

Julie Ziemecki, Directing Teacher

New Georgia Encyclopedia Award

“The Effects of Socioeconomics and Academic
Performance in Georgia”

Lauren Glover and Chelsea Williams

Liberty Middle School

Newton County Schools

Angel West, Directing Teacher

GCSS Sociology/Social Psychology Award (Tie)

“Fake News: How Does it Affect Our Perception of Truth?”

Haylie Murphy

Griffin Middle School

Cobb County Schools

Joshua Wonders, Directing Teacher

GCSS Sociology/Social Psychology Award (continued)

“Meatless Meats: Future Food or Vegan Delusion?”

Dhruv Anupindi

Aditya Harathi

Shashank Ramireddy

Riverwatch Middle School

Forsyth County Schools

Ms. Lindsey Burnsed, Directing Teacher

Most Intriguing Primary Source

“Why is Recess Important to Elementary Children?”

Talin Hawkins

Dunwoody Elementary School

DeKalb County Schools

Mrs. Tulani Futch, Directing Teacher

Best Use of Technology (2)

“How do wedding ceremonies differ between USA,
Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia?”

Elizabeth Ryan and Karuna Damie

Ridgeview Charter Middle School

Fulton County Schools

Tia Lemon, Directing Teacher

“Musical Therapy”

Micaiah Byrd and Krisha Patel

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Jennifer McDaniel, Directing Teacher

Best Project Addressing the Impact or Management of a
STEM-related Development or Issue (3)

“The Matilda Effect: Scientific Women Obscured by History”

Lorelei Urick

Lake Park Elementary School

Dougherty County Schools

Mrs. Erica Dupree, Directing Teacher

“Newton vs. Leibniz: Two Independent Discoveries
That Shaped Mathematics”

Emma Ringe

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Lauren Nguyen, Directing Teacher

“Propaganda in the Digital Age: The Rise and Fall
Of Cambridge Analytica”

Rumi Lee

Houston County High School

Houston County Schools

Lauren Nguyen, Directing Teacher