

**Excellence**

 **Education**

# Shining Stars 2020

Advertising Supplement To

THE SAMPSON  
**INDEPENDENT**



**Enviva is  
proud to be  
a member of  
the Sampson  
community**



**See what your neighbors are talking about!**

FURNITURE - APPLIANCES - FLOOR COVERING - ELECTRONICS  
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

**PRICE  
MATCH  
GUARANTEED**

**Clinton**  
APPLIANCE & FURNITURE

401 Northeast Blvd, Clinton

**910-592-7077**

**clintonappliance.com**

# Going 'green' in Clinton City Schools

*Greenhouse project offers new avenue to learn*

**By Brendaly Vega Davis**  
bvega@clintonnc.com

Sampson County is big on agriculture, so it's no surprise that Sampson Middle School decided to create an agriculture and greenhouse project for students to learn about an industry that is a force where they live.

"Agriculture is very important to this area of the state, region and county," Clinton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Wesley Johnson stated. "We are very excited to offer these courses to our middle school students and have a fabulous, veteran retired teacher [Gerald Barlowe] working with our students; he has a wealth of experience and contacts."

"Through this program our goal is to expose students to our state and nation's biggest industry- agriculture," Barlowe added. "Sampson county is the leading agricultural county in our state and one of the top counties in America. This program gives students the opportunity to learn more about the industry and its opportunities."

Barlowe has already acquired some additional resources through grants to aid Sampson Middle students and the Career and Technical Education Program. He has been an agriculture teacher at Midway, Lakewood, Union and Clinton, as well as serving as an FFA advisor. He has been a long time agriculture leader in the state and was even presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine just last year. Now he has returned for this program at Sampson Middle.

"The overall goal is to give the students an understanding of the agricultural industry and to allow them to explore career opportunities available in the agriculture industry," Barlowe

**Teacher Gerald Barlowe works on new tables for Sampson Middle School's greenhouse with student Emily Simms.**



COURTESY PHOTO

discussed. "The primary areas of focus for this first year are plant and animal science. The goal is to provide students with hands on experiences that may spark an interest and lead them into future exploration in Career and Technical Education courses in high school."

The program provides real-world and hands-on experience, making it a beneficial program in the eyes of the school leaders. Students will have the opportunity to learn trade skills and accrue knowledge that can be useful in other

*"With the greenhouse, we get hands-on experience at the very basics of agriculture, but students are also learning leadership, teamwork, the impacts and use of technology in agriculture, land maintenance and a lot of responsibility."*

— Robert Turlington,  
SMS Principal

areas as well. Barlowe also explained that he wanted the students to grow a spring crop of annuals and vegetable crops for students to take home. The program may also feature guest speakers to give students as much exposure to the industry as possible.

"The title of the CTE course is Exploring Agricultural Science," Barlowe continued. "We are offering this first year courselets in Plant and Animal Science. Our level II course will hopefully cover agricultural mechanics so that students can learn some basic woodworking, plumbing, electrical and small engine skills."

"Agriculture courses at the middle school is a new adventure for Clinton City Schools," Johnson noted. "I think it is key to expose students to these courses and help them understand the necessity of agriculture and related careers to our community."

The agricultural program started in August 2019.

"We welcome the opportunity to showcase our agriculture program and Mr. Barlowe's dedication to expanding the curriculum and offerings at Sampson Middle," Principal Robert Turlington stated.

This program can help gear students for a future in this county, should they choose to stay in Sampson after graduation.

"We live in a community that is entrenched in

agriculture," Turlington added. "This program helps our students understand on a grander scale our role in helping to feed the world."

The program was chosen for a much younger age group to give them a hands-on approach before they have to start considering careers.

"This opportunity has been very exciting for the students at Sampson Middle School as it will help them learn many skills in leadership development, personal growth as well as exploring all aspects of agriculture," Kristy Moore, Career and Technical Education director at Clinton High School mentioned. "It is also a great opportunity to strengthen the high school agriculture program."

Barlowe also hopes that this program will encourage students to begin to plan their futures. When they get to high school, hopefully they will get involved in other Career and Technical Education courses.

Moore is hopeful that the greenhouse will be up and in operational condition by the end of January 2020 but the principal of Sampson Middle believes it will take a bit longer. Currently, there is no set completion date for the greenhouse.

"Once we get the greenhouse operational, it will provide our students the opportunity to work with their hands and see the fruits of their labor," Johnson commented.

The project is open to seventh- and eighth-graders at the middle school. According to Moore, there are around 180 students in the program since the teacher is only working for the program part-time.

"The students have taken an active role in refurbishing many aspects of the greenhouse," Turlington added. "They have helped clear the area, make tables, repair the structure and many other aspects of getting it ready."

Turlington explained the group's intention to expand this program through FFA clubs. Moore said CTE funds the program right now.

"I look forward to seeing what the students learn to create and produce, as well as watching their leadership development skills grow," the CTE director expressed. "Having a middle school program always enhances and strengthens the high school program and in return will increase the enrollment so that more students become aware of the career opportunities, not only in our community, but in our region and state."



PHOTO BY BRENDA VEGA DAVIS  
SAMPSON INDEPENDENT

**Sampson Middle students are lending a hand to clear the area and make tables for the greenhouse.**

Barlowe believes establishing an FFA program will bring an opportunity for students to participate in local and state level FFA activities that are held after school or during the summer. He went on to explain that an agricultural education program has three components: classroom/lab instruction, FFA and supervised agricultural experience.

“So we are working to implement all these components into our program at Sampson Middle School,” Barlowe stated.

The Sampson Middle School principal also has high hopes for the agriculture program and what it could do for his students.

“I hope for them to have an appreciation for and knowledge of the various job opportunities associated with agriculture,” Turlington expressed. “There are so many aspects of this business that go beyond ‘seed and sprout’ than most people could even imagine.”

The school principal also looks forward to watching the program expand as soon as it can. He believes the program can one day offer more skill-based learning and additional classes.

“This will be exploratory and it might be a recruitment tool for more advanced program placement in high school,” Dr. Kelly Batts, assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction suggested. “Agriculture is a huge part of the culture and economic driver of Sampson County and surrounding areas.”

According to Batts, the high school has a strong agricultural program.

So far the middle school program has offered two off-campus instructional activities for the students involved. The young pupils went to the University of Mount Olive for the AgFest. They were also taken to a state livestock judging event at James B. Hunt Jr. Horse Complex on the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The students even placed 10th in the state for the middle school division of the competition.

“With the greenhouse, we get hands-on experience at the very basics of agriculture, but students are also learning leadership, teamwork, the impacts and use of technology in agriculture, land maintenance and a lot of responsibility,” Turlington added.

According to the agriculture teacher, last fall students learned to use some hand tools and got to build some greenhouse tables. In the spring, they will get the opportunity to learn how to grow plants in the greenhouse as well as how to use hand tools.

Turlington has been impressed so far with

Barlowe’s work with the students, stating that he has done a fantastic job. Barlowe has taught the students various aspects of the agricultural industry in addition to the area of employment in this field of work. The principal explains that the project is more than just planting a seed and watching it grow, but it also shows how agriculture is applied all over the world.

“Students have been excited about the program and seem to enjoy the classes,” the agriculture teacher expressed. “Our goal this year is to establish the program and build expectations from the students. We knew it would take some time to get our facilities up and running and we are almost there. We also know that it will take some time to get our Sampson Middle School FFA chapter established and to create excitement among the students.”

So far, the school has seen a remarkable response to the new program, leading to hope for further funding to expand in the future.

“This program area is of interest to our families, our students, and the community. Some of the students will have firsthand knowledge of the content as a result of family involvement — others may just find it of interest,” Batts commented.

“I have to credit Superintendent Dr. Johnson, our CTE Director, Mrs. Kristy Moore and our Central Office with the initiation of this idea,” Turlington concluded. “I’m sure that they will agree that helping to fund an expansion of this program will benefit our community and students.”

Brendaly Vega Davis can be reached at 910-592-8137 ext. 2588.

## L.C. Kerr Elementary School



**Teacher: Emily Colt**

Grade: Kindergarten  
Subject: Art and Music Education  
Education: Elementary and Early Childhood Education Bachelors Degree from Gannon University in Erie, PA.

### Why Education?

There have been many different factors throughout my life that lead me to the field of Education. From family to classroom experiences, I consider all of my influences to have directly impacted my determination to enter the education profession. Ultimately, teachers impact the world, and my goal is to help make a difference in the lives of my students.

### What you like about your school/what makes it special?

Langdon C. Kerr school is AMAZING! I believe that our school holds a special place in many hearts because of the profound achievements of our students and staff. With over 380 students under the age of 7, there are so many accomplishments made on a daily basis. Our teachers and staff provide the best education for their students while maintaining an atmosphere that gives you a sense of family. I

consider myself lucky to be a part of such a wonderful community.

### What do you think about being a Shining Star representative?

I am extremely humbled to be considered as the LCK Sampson Independent Shining Star Educator since we have an abundance of amazing, intelligent, kind, caring, and professional educators employed at our school. It is an absolute honor to represent the Langdon C. Kerr community, because I wouldn't be the educator I am today without their support and influence.



**Student: Brody Terry**

Age: 6 Grade: Kindergarten  
School: LC Kerr Elementary

### What is your favorite subject?

Sight Words – when you learn them you get better.

### What makes your school special?

Because it has learning centers in our classroom, that's what makes it special.

### What student thinks about being named a shining star?

I am happy and I think it's going to be good!

# Butler Avenue School



**Teacher: Faith Howell**

Grade Taught: 1st  
Educational Background: 2006-2007 Fayetteville State University, Masters of Elementary Education; 1988-1994 Bennett College, Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

**Why did you choose education?**

Education chose me. At the age of six years old, my first grade year was not a pleasant experience. However it was a pivotal year which made me want to become the kind of teacher that my students would always remember fondly.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

The environment of Butler Avenue School is positive and nurturing. The faculty and staff are very supportive and helpful. The students are very eager to learn and the parents are actively invested in their child's education.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

Being chosen as Butler Avenue Schools Shining Star representative is a humbling honor.



**Student: Lydia Sanchez**

Age: 7 Grade: 1st  
School: Butler Avenue School

**What is your favorite subject?**

Reading and math

**What makes your school special?**

I think that being a Dark Horse is awesome. We are supposed to be responsible for what we do.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I am happy that everyone voted for me.



# Sunset Avenue School



**Teacher: Khriissy Smith**

Grade Taught: 4th  
Subjects Taught: Language Arts & Social Studies  
Education background: 8 years with Clinton City Schools

**Why did you choose education?**

I chose education because of my love of children and my desire to better my community. It is such a blessing being able to have a career that I enjoy coming to each day, as well as being able to impact the children of my community and their futures.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

I love that our school is always growing and changing. We are constantly trying to improve upon our practices and make sure that we are always doing what is best for our students. I feel we foster a learning environment that makes kids excited about learning and that is what being a teacher is all about!

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am honored to be chosen as Sunset Avenue's Shining Star representative. I am surrounded by such wonderful educators that help support me every day, so being chosen out of such an amazing group of colleagues is very special to me.



**Teacher: Sandra P. Ward**

Grade Taught: 3rd  
Subjects Taught: Math/Science  
Education background: Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Elementary Education Master of Education from Campbell University

**Why did you choose education?**

I was blessed and inspired by many great caring educators early in my life. I felt it was my calling to inspire others to love learning new things in a creative way and the importance of caring and sharing with others how important respecting others was on the building of knowledge daily.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Sunset Avenue is an awesome place to be where goals are set high and motivation is contagious. The caring staff puts the needs of students first and are prepared to go the extra mile when needed.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am humbled and honored to represent all the magnificent shining stars of Sunset Avenue of which I am only one.

*\*Two Shining Stars teachers were chosen at Sunset Avenue as the school customarily selects its Teacher of the Year to serve also as the Shining Star. Sandra Ward was chosen as the Teacher of the Year for Butler Avenue and Khriissy Smith was chosen as the Teacher of the Year for Sunset Avenue this year. Sunset Avenue added third grade as part of a district reconfiguration, and in process gained a second Teacher of the Year in Ward.*

**Student: Ja'Vier Wilson**

Age: 10 Grade: 4th  
School: Sunset Avenue School

**What is your favorite subject?**

My favorite subject is Science because I like doing fun things.

**What makes your school special?**

My school is special because it has more books than I can read!

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I think it is cool because I have never been a Shining Star.



# Sampson Middle School



**Teacher: Stacy Simmons**

Grades Taught: 6-8  
Subject Taught: EC  
Education background: BS in Birth-Kindergarten from ECU, Cross Categorical Special Education License

**Why did you choose education?**

It is hard for me to recall much in my life that hasn't influenced my decision to become a teacher. From all of my amazing teachers, to my family and job experiences, it is safe to say that I have not had a lack of inspiration for wanting to become a teacher. Young children have a thirst for life and knowledge that is infectious, and if it were not for my teachers, family, and job experiences I would not be able to recognize that. Children with special needs have always been an interest of mine, due mostly to my high school PE teacher (Karen Fox) who invited a group of children with special needs to come to our class on a regular basis. We spent hours working and playing together, forming memories, that not knowingly, but ultimately lead to my career.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Acceptance and inclusion! SMS is an environment that promotes positive relationships among everyone. Every single person at this school has wrapped their arms around the children in my classroom and invited them in to be a part of their heart. We are a school of encouragement, creativity, kindness, forgiveness, and most importantly LOVE!

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I honestly think of our staff picture ... the silly one of course. Each person in that picture is a shining star in my eyes. For me to be chosen out of that group is humbling. I truly enjoy what I do and the people I get to do it with every single day. I am honored and blessed to be SMS's Shining Star!



**Student: Evan Gillespie**

Age: 13 Grade: 7th  
School: Sampson Middle School

**What is your favorite subject?**

Math is my favorite subject. It has one answer and I like using the logic necessary to find that answer.

**What makes your school special?**

The Teachers are very special. I also like being a part of the Fellowship of Christian Students at Sampson Middle. We also have events at Sampson Middle that include everyone. I enjoy being part of a very diverse student body that makes up my school. They all have a part to play in making our school special.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I am very surprised and super excited. I'm very honored to be chosen. There was only one person picked and it made me proud to be the one chosen.



# Clinton High School



**Teacher: Michael Ray**

Grades Taught: High School and elementary early in his career  
Subject Taught: Visual Arts  
Education Background: Associate in Commercial Art & Video Technology, and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education with a concentration in Sculpture & Painting

**Why did you choose education?**

I did not really choose education. Education choose me. I was a painting major working on a BFA. I had recently gotten married, and I was about to have a baby. A bachelor degree in art does not normally come with a guarantee of a jobs with benefits. You make it big or you work in the ole jobbie job. I changed my major to art education. It was the best decision career wise that I had ever made. It was not what I thought I wanted, but I had found my calling. Not only was I good at teaching art, but I really loved doing it. Teaching art is what I was put here to do. Sure I have good days and bad days, but is not that the truth of anything that is worthwhile. Teaching was not what I had planned; however, I am very glad it is what I do!

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

I have worked at five different schools and three different districts during my career, and all were great places to work, but I truly believe I was meant to teach high school and more specifically teach at Clinton High School. Clinton High School is not just a place to work; it is a family of service minded people focused on

bettering the lives of our students. The staff is a supportive cohort of professionals working together toward a common goal.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am extremely humbled to be chosen as Clinton High Schools Shining Star. There are many worthy candidates for this honor here. I am very honored and proud to have been chosen by my peers. This is my seventeenth year teaching at Clinton High School, and I hope this is where I retire. I would not want to finish out anywhere else. This is my family. Thank you!



**Student: Ruthie Brock**

Age: 17  
Grade: 12th  
School: Clinton High School

**What is your favorite subject?**

My favorite subject is math because it has always been my strongest subject.

**What makes your school special?**

The opportunities given to students are what makes CHS special. There is a club or sports team for everyone. We offer many AP classes along with CCP classes. Our band, sports teams, clubs, and JROTC are all successful in many ways.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

It's a huge honor to represent my school! I hope that I am able to be a role model to younger children in the district.



# The private university of choice in North Carolina



Enrolls more  
North Carolinians than  
any private school



Only N.C. private  
university with professional  
degrees in law, medicine,  
& pharmacy

**150+**

Prepares leaders for  
N.C. through 150+  
academic programs



**CAMPBELL**  
UNIVERSITY

*Leading with purpose*

[www.campbell.edu](http://www.campbell.edu)

EEO/AA/Minorities/Females/Disabled/Protected Veterans  
<http://www.campbell.edu/employment>

# STEM-ing early in Sampson

County elementary schools push STEM initiatives



PHOTOS BY CHASE JORDAN  
SAMPSON INDEPENDENT

STEM teacher Amber Faircloth spends time with students Chase Daniels and Aiden Clark.

Natural Sciences in Raleigh and Lego's Robotics for children. Interest grew with the help of funding from foundations such as the Simple Gifts Fund, South River Electric Membership Corporation, Duke Energy Science Night, donors and book fairs. Some of the program include Dot-N-Dash, a robotics program, circuit kits to learn about electricity, solar devices and building blocks.

"I generally show them how to operate some stuff, but I just let them explore," Faircloth said. "Some kids who are usually very quiet or not as engaged and sit back watch other people — they get really involved."

A few of the examples are fossil molds and a dance party created on a computer with characters.

"They got up and started moving after they haven't made much noise," she said. "So, I think this reach a lot of kids that maybe normally wouldn't be interested in certain things. They find something here that they really like and it get to them."

Faircloth said the field also introduces students to possible careers.

"Even though they're too young to decide what they're going to do, it really opens their eyes to what's out there," she said. "As

By Chase Jordan  
cjordan@clintonnc.com

Teacher Amber Faircloth watched as Aalyiah Hobbs made a robot move with the right command on a computer.

"We're learning how to do coding," said Aalyiah, a third-grader. "I enjoy playing with the robots."

For the 2019-2020 school year Faircloth began teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to all students once a week or every other week at Midway Elementary School.

"Kids are naturally very curious and they're really interested," Faircloth said. "You can show them so many things. It's open and they can create. In STEM, there's a lot of creating and designing."

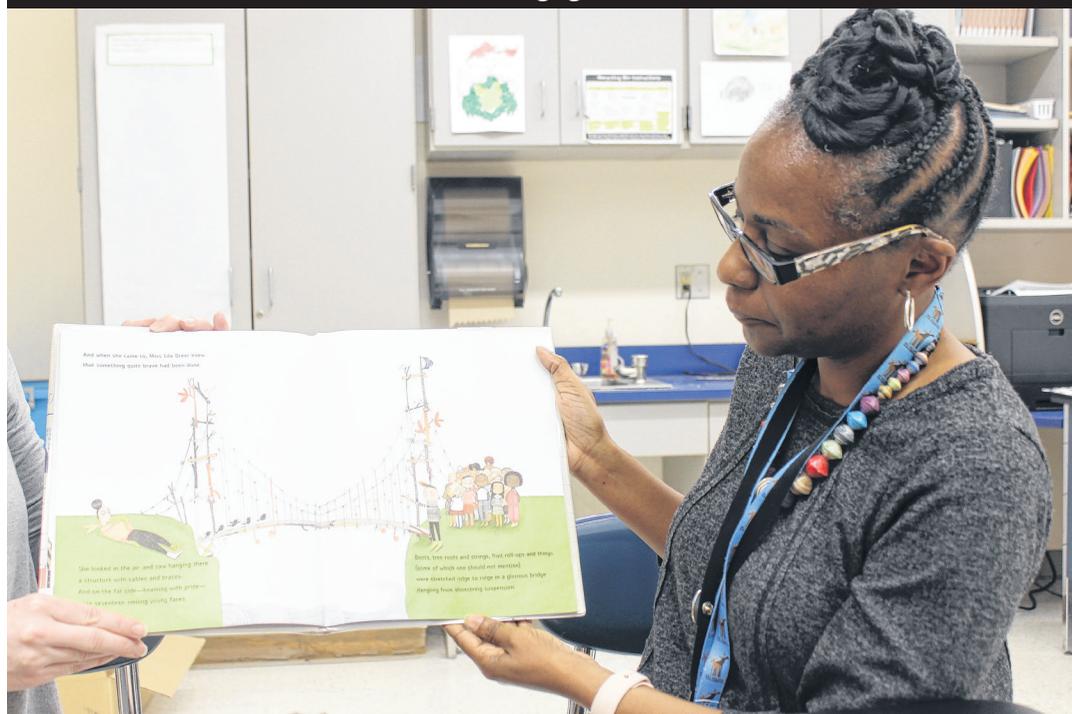
Faircloth's role was a new position created after Midway Elementary opened its STEM lab in January 2019, which later turned into a classroom.

"We do a lot of fun activities and the funnest thing that I like is playing with the

blocks," said third-grader Fernando Ambriz. "It's a good way to learn about science."

The idea started with STEM initiatives such as The Outdoors to Teach Experiential Science from North Carolina Museum of

Educator Tara Armwood talks about a book encouraging children to build.





COURTESY PHOTO

The work written by Andrea Beaty with illustrations by David Roberts follows a kid's passion for architecture. In the story, his teacher feels that there's no place in the classroom for building. During a field trip, a bridge falls apart and later Iggy comes to the rescue and builds another one to cross a stream.

"He takes everything that he can see and he makes a bridge," Bullard said. "Chewing gum, socks, shoelaces..."

Although the book is fictional and candy can't hold up a bridge, she hopes it sparks imaginations and continue through middle school, high school, college and adulthood. Based on previous experiences at the higher grade levels, Bullard believes elementary schools should start the STEM foundation. Some of the benefits include presentation skills and communication.

"This begins that process," she said. "We're setting that foundation for them to learn to work well together."



Jillian Cooper and William Bass use coding to make a robot move.

Aaliyah Battle and Aalyiah Hobbs get excited about STEM.



they get older, it middle school and high school, they can get a little more focused on career opportunities."

In February 2020, Faircloth would like to host a family event for robot coding and a STEM Night in April 2020 for the community to explore what it has to offer. In the meantime, Faircloth will continue to help develop what could be the next generation scientists, technicians, engineers and mathematicians.

*"I think STEM provides more than just science, technology, engineering, and math. It's a good way to show kids how all of your core classes come together. It's also a way for them to work together. At most jobs, you have to work with a team."*

— Christy Bullard,  
Clement ES Media Specialist

"I'm very thankful to be here and teach STEM with everybody," Faircloth said. "I plan to make it better and grow even more."

Midway Elementary is just one of many elementary schools throughout Sampson County working to introduce STEM to young students. As a media specialist at Clement Elementary School, Christy Bullard enjoys seeing children read. But when it comes to STEM, "Iggy Peck, Architect" is her favorite.

Along with Tara Armwood, a teacher for Academically or Intellectually Gifted students, Bullard applied for funding to bring the first S.T.R.E.A.M. Mobile Lab to Clement Elementary. A Reading (R) component was added for the students. A grand opening with Sampson County officials was held in September 2019. Funding was made possible through a \$10,000 grant from Operation Round Up, a program created by South River Electric Membership Corporation's charitable foundation, the Community Assistance Corporation. South River started Operation Round Up in 2007 and the voluntary program allows customers to round their bills to the next dollar, with the change going to charity.

Now, they're ready to continue the progress and are seeking more grants. Through the lab, students are using 3-D printers; Lightbox, a multimedia program; and zSpace, which combines elements of virtual and augmented reality in a computer.

"Right now, getting our students and our staff acclimated with the new technology is the important thing," Bullard said. "When you build a foundation, you got to do it brick by brick. So we got to start, and work our way up."

For the educators at CES, the best part is watching the students become hands-on and collaborate together.

"It's so beneficial watching the children do different activities that are STEM related," said Armwood, who also works with AIG

students at Midway Elementary.

Another thing Armwood likes about STEM is the trial and error work. One of the examples is a VEX Robotics' SwitchGrip Shooter. The goal is to shoot a ball at least 20 feet. Putting it together, is a lot harder than it looks. Through such projects, Armwood said she watches young children become leaders at all grade levels.

"It pulls in mathematics where they have to work together," Armwood said. "It didn't work, but now they're in the process of rebuilding it."

In the library, Bullard tries to integrate STEM. One of the first activities she introduced was Bee-Bots, a robot designed for children to move on command through complex sequences.

"I think STEM provides more than just science, technology, engineering, and math," Bullard said. "It's a good way to show kids how all of your core classes come together. It's also a way for them to work together. At most jobs, you have to work with a team."

For lower grade levels, Bullard challenged students to make the Bee-Bots go through a maze. She said the STEM activity is one way for students to think outside the box and gain real world experience. While talking about the future, Armwood said robots are expected to replace more and more jobs.

"Rather than managing people, they are to have to manage robots," Bullard added. "When I say manage robots, they are going to have to problem solve. If there's a

problem with the technology, they're going to have to figure out mathematically, how to make it more effective and efficient."

Reach Chase Jordan at 910-249-4617. Follow us on Twitter at @SampsonInd and like us on Facebook.



Students enjoy working on STEM projects together.

## Clement Elementary School



**Teacher: Kristi Carroll Hall**

Grade Taught: 1st, 4th and currently 5th  
Subjects Taught: Science, Health and Social Studies

Education background: Attended Sampson Community College, obtaining a two-year degree. Kristi completed her four-year degree at Fayetteville State University.

### Why did you choose education?

I have always loved helping and working with children/kids. I enjoy watching them get excited when they learn something new.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

Clement Elementary is a family. Whether you are a student or staff member, you feel like you are at home. Our staff works together to ensure that students are getting the education and care they need.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am honored that my fellow staff members chose me to represent Clement Elementary. Without them, I could not do my job effectively.



**Student: Tiah'dea Tishea Santos Sanchez**

Age: 10 Grade: 5th  
School: Clement Elementary School

### What is your favorite subject?

Reading is my favorite subject.

### What makes your school special?

The teachers make my school special.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I think it is great because you are chosen to represent your school.

## Hargrove Elementary School



**Teacher: Shaneka Flanagan**  
 Grade Taught: 5th  
 Subjects Taught: All core Subjects  
 Education Background: A graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education

### Why did you choose education?

As a little girl, I was always the one who loved to play school. I always knew that I would be a teacher. I just love the aspect of teaching and learning. As a teacher we are educating the future. We are the ones that teach the future novelist, lawyers, scientists and doctors of the world.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

What I like most about Hargrove is that it is a very small school. You really get to know the students, parents, and staff. Hargrove may be small in size but big in heart. Hargrove is special to me because we are a family that is very caring, loving and supportive.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am truly honored and humbled to be chosen. I work with so many Shining Stars at Hargrove. I am so honored to be able to represent Hargrove!



**Student: Angelic Galeano Jimenez**  
 Age: 11 Grade: 5th  
 School: Hargrove Elementary

### What is your favorite subject?

Math is my favorite subject because I like working with numbers. I like dividing the numbers.

### What makes your school special?

My school is special because I can learn. The teachers and students are very nice and friendly. I can work and play with my friends. I enjoy all the activities in my classroom. This is why my school is special to me.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I am grateful to God to be chosen. I am very happy and thankful. I feel proud of myself.



## Hobhton Elementary School



**Teacher: Jana McLamb**  
 Grade Taught: 4th  
 Subjects Taught: Math  
 Education background: Jana has a 4-year degree from N.C. State, Elementary Education degree from Meredith College and a Master's in Elementary Education from Campbell University.

### Why did you choose education?

I chose education because I wanted to help shape the future of little minds. Teachers can make such a difference in the lives of many students and I wanted to do that. Don't get me wrong, and education is very important, but the self-esteem and well-being of a child is the most important. I used to come to school every day to make a difference in one child's life, but this year I come to make a difference in all me students' lives. Believe me, this is a challenge and I do get frustrated, but I pray every day to be kind and realize I may be the only friendly face some of these kids ever see.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

I love my little school because we are a family and we try to see the good in everyone. Every teacher here tries to make a difference in each student that passes through our classrooms. Plus the administration here is awesome!

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

This is the greatest honor ever, but every teacher that loves their job is a shining star!



**Student: Ever Cornejo**  
 Age: 7 Grade: 1st  
 School: Hobhton Elementary School

### What is your favorite subject?

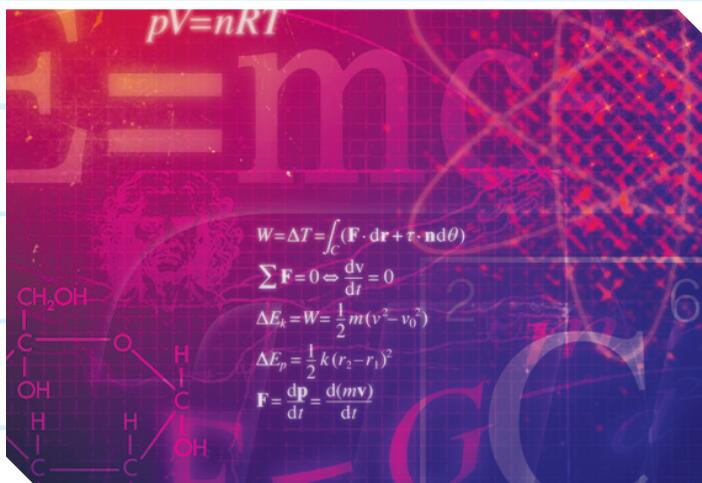
Math.

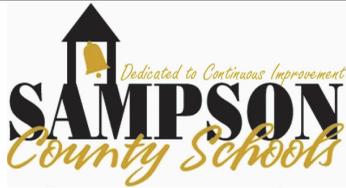
### What makes your school special?

They help me learn.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

It makes me feel happy and special.





Preparing our students for  
**TOMORROW!**



**Come join our team!**

For available positions please contact us.  
[www.sampson.k12.nc.us](http://www.sampson.k12.nc.us) 910-592-1401

# OPEN HOUSE

MINTZ CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Advanced and Measured Progress are now  
**cognia**

**ACSI**  
ACCREDITED

Thursday, January 23, 2020 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 - 3 - 5 p.m.

NOW ACCEPTING 2020/2021 APPLICATIONS FOR GRADES K-12

Non-discriminatory policy: MCA admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin.

APPLY ONLINE TODAY!

Website: [www.mcanc.com](http://www.mcanc.com)

2741 Mintz Road, Roseboro, NC 28382

Phone: 910-564-6221



Recreation & Parks Phone: 910-299-4906

## Youth Sports Registration Dates

**Spring Soccer** Dec. 9, 2019 – Jan. 17

**Baseball, T-Ball and Girls Softball**

Dec. 9, 2019 – Feb. 14

**Football** May 26 – Aug. 28

**Fall Soccer** May 26 – July 24

**Volleyball** July 6 – Sept. 11

**Basketball** Aug. 31 – Nov. 6

## YOUTH SPORTS FEES:

**CITY RES.** = \$15/child (1st child) & \$10/each additional child

**NON-RES.** = \$35/child (1st child) & \$20/each additional child

*Discount does not apply to football*

## LIFEGUARDS NEEDED!

Call 910-299-4906 for more information. Must be at least 15 years old.



## EASTER

### Easter Egg Hunt:

April 10th – 11am  
for ages 3-9

### Adult Activities:

(Bellamy Center):

- **Walking for Health:** Adults of all ages are invited to walk Monday - Friday starting at 8:30AM
- **Golden Age Fun Club:** meetings 4pm-6pm Friday nights. (No meeting 5th Friday of the month). Ages 50 and older are welcome to attend
- **Wee Wednesdays** every Wednesday 10am-12pm ages 5 and under
- **Weekly Activities:** Knitting Chicken Scratch, Quilting, Craft Classes, Card Games, Fruity Bingo, and more! Schedule varies. Please contact us for more information.
- **Senior Walking** is 8:30am-12pm Monday-Friday

## Hobbton Middle School



**Teacher: Dr. Rue S. Lee-Holmes**

Grades Taught: 6-8  
Subject Taught: General Music  
Dr. Lee-Holmes has been in the education profession for 25 years. She earned a PhD in Music Education from UNC-Greensboro, as well as a Master of Music in Music Education and Music Therapy Equivalency, East Carolina University. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Music

Education from Meredith College

### Why did you go into education?

I am a music teacher because I want to share my love of music and help my students become musically literate. I want my students to understand that music is educational as well as entertaining. Music (and the other arts including dance, theater, and visual arts) is a core, non-tested academic subject with its own standards of knowledge and skill set. Helping my students understand music and its connection with other subjects, will create well-rounded individuals and support their development of creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

### What do you like most about your school? What makes it special?

I appreciate the camaraderie among the staff.

### What do you think about being the school's Shining Star?

I am excited and appreciative of the support from the staff.



**Student: Skittle Hunter**

Grade: 8th Age: 14

### What is your favorite subject and why?

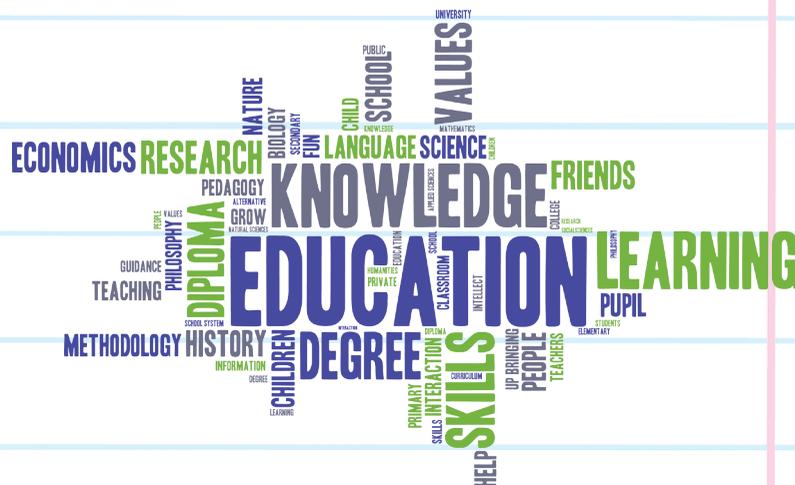
My favorite subject is math because it tends to be very straightforward and easy to understand.

### What makes your school special?

My school is special because the teachers are amazing and kind. I have learned a lot from them.

### What do you think about being the school's Shining Star?

I think being the school's Shining Star is a great honor, being chosen out of all the students.



## Hobbton High School



**Teacher: Greg S. Waters**

Grade Taught: 9-12  
Subjects Taught: Science (Physical Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Biology and Chemistry)  
Education background: BS in Biology and BA in Chemistry, UNCW, 2003; Teacher Certification, UNC Asheville, 2013

### Why did you choose education?

I want to teach science, which I love, to the young people today to show them how cool and interesting it can be.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

We are like a big family. Everyone is there for each other.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am honored because all of my co-workers deserve this award before me. I could not do my job without their help and support.



**Student: Brayden Herring**

Age: 17 Grade: 12th  
School: Hobbton High School

### What is your favorite subject?

History

### What makes your school special?

Ms. Weeks in the office makes HHS a great place to be every day.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I feel very privileged to be named a Shining Star. I love being a Wildcat. It is my favorite!



# Lakewood High School



**Teacher: Shannon Edwards**  
Grade Taught: 10-11  
Subject Taught: Biology and Physical Science  
Education Background: B.A. in Biology with a minor in Secondary Education from Queens University of Charlotte

### Why did you choose education?

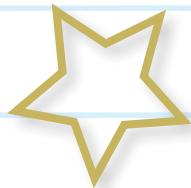
I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. My teachers always made me feel loved and welcomed, and I want to create the same caring and educational environment for my students. Teaching is about more than "work" - it is about helping students find and seek what they are passionate about, and I am glad to share my passion for education.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

Firstly, I love working at Lakewood because of the students! They teach me new things every day, and remind me of how rewarding my job is multiple times a day. Secondly, my school is special because the faculty and staff at Lakewood are so supportive; we support our students, as well as one another. We are a family within this school!

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I feel so honored to have been chosen to represent Lakewood High School as their Shining Star!



**Student: Shannah Chloe Hobbs**  
Age: 18 Grade: 12th  
School: Lakewood High School

### What is your favorite subject?

My favorite subject is American History. As a teen in the 21st Century, we often look past our roots and focus on the future. While the future is inevitably important, we must remember what has brought

us to where we are. The newly paved highways we drive on, the convenient stores we stop by after school, and the banks we retrieve our cash from was all afforded to us at the price of men and women sacrificing themselves. Each stripe on our flag and each star in its corner comes at a gruesome and blood-stained price. As a student in an American History class, I am reminded daily of the price behind our prized liberty.

### What makes your school special?

Lakewood High School is special because of the diversity that it has to offer. No matter what class I am enrolled in, there will always be a plethora of different students. Each of these pupils offer a unique view of our world and informs me of the uniqueness of Sampson County.

### What do you think about being named Shining Star?

I am honored to be named the Shining Star Student for Lakewood High School. My quest over the past four years has been to live to serve the inhabitants of this world while glorifying Jesus Christ and I hope that this is why I was chosen. My prayer is that the joy I have shown in the school would encourage those to graduate from Lakewood and become competent and driven American citizens.

# Midway Elementary School



**Teacher: Tina Bruce**  
Grade Taught: 2nd  
Subjects Taught: Math, Science, Social Studies  
Education Background: BS and Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Campbell University. She has taught 2nd and 3rd grade

### Why did you choose education?

My elementary teachers had a huge impact on my love for school. As an elementary student I used to go home and pretend to teach my own class of students. I think I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I love to see children grow and learn. It is never boring, and always a daily adventure!

### What do you like about your school /what makes it special?

The students and staff make Midway Elementary a great place to work. We are a family that takes care of each other.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am honored to be chosen as a representative for all of the amazing staff at Midway Elementary School. We are a team that works together to provide the very best for our students each day.



**Student: Jocelyn Orosco Sanchez**  
Age: 10 Grade: 5th  
School: Midway Elementary

### What is your favorite subject?

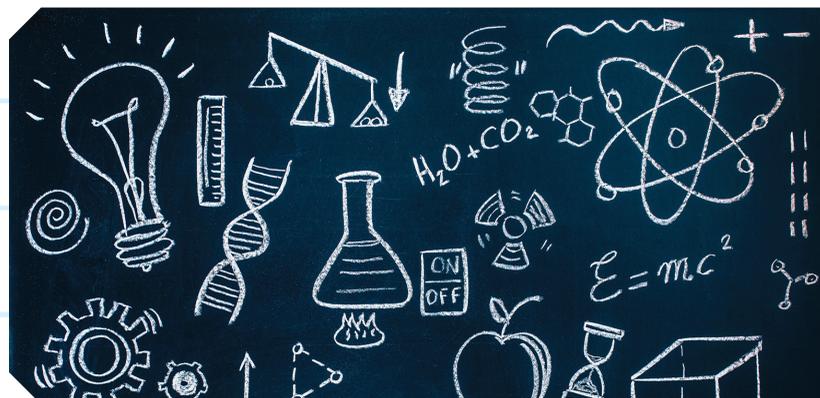
Science

### What makes your school special?

We are able to learn and we are challenged by the teachers.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I think it is pretty awesome because I have worked so hard at school.



# Midway Middle School

**Teacher: Jessica King**

Grade Taught: 6-8  
Subject Taught: Chorus/General Music  
Education background: Graduate from UNC-Pembroke, Music K-12; Elementary Education, K-6; Master's Elementary Education, K-6

**Why did you choose education?**

Music Education became my passion when I was a senior in high school. I had a teacher who took interest in my talents and believed in me even when I could not believe in myself academically. I decided then that I wanted to be a teacher and influence kids that way my teacher had influenced me to be the best I could be and shine in my own way.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Our school has a loving and caring environment for our students every day. I love being a Midway Raider!

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am honored to be chosen to represent Midway Middle School. They are my second family and I love working with the faculty and students.

**Student: Demarcus Cousar**

Age: 13  
Grade: 8th  
School: Midway Middle

**What is your favorite subject?**

My favorite subject is math. I am a hard worker and I do my best

**What makes your school special?**

Midway Middle is special because it has a great system that allows students to grow up and make a difference in the world. We are a tight knit family. As students we know that we have teachers that we can trust and go to about anything. We have two amazing principals who are great leaders, competitive, and want to see us students succeed. Midway Middle is a good place to make new friends. Once you begin to talk to and get to know each other you have more fun at school. An outstanding thing that I have been a part of is sports. Being a part of the Raider Family, you have a chip on your shoulder. You work hard everyday and give your all, that's the fun thing.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

Being a Shining Star is something very special, it's an honor. I'm not one to brag or like to be in the spotlight, but it does feel good to be recognized for hard work. I'm thankful and grateful for God, my parents, family, and teachers for helping me get to where I am today.

# Midway High School

**Teacher: Rebecca Johnson**

Grades Taught: 9-12  
Subject Taught: Spanish  
Education Background: BA in Spanish and Masters in Teaching from Michigan State University

**Why did you choose education?**

I chose education because I wanted to have a career where I would be able to

make a difference. It's not easy and you do have bad days, but you also have those days where a student has an 'ah-ha' moment. You have days where you get to be the right person at the right time for a child. You have the days where a student says 'Because of your class and what we learned, I was able to do this...' and it makes it all worth it. I really can't imagine doing anything else.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Midway is special because of the people. Once I graduated from college in Michigan, I knew I wanted to teach. I didn't care where, I just knew I wanted to get into the classroom. I had job offers in Arizona and Indiana, and then I came out to Midway and I knew it was the right place for me. I knew I was in a community that cares and around people that care about the kids. I tell my students each semester that they are the reason I am here and they are worth it.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I feel very honored and blessed. I work with so many wonderful people and I really could not do it without them. I am so grateful to have found Midway.

**Student: Cristina Lopez-Gutierrez**

Age: 14 Grade: 9  
School: Midway High School

**What is your favorite subject?**

Math, because it is my strongest subject and I don't find it as difficult as other subjects.

**What makes your school special?**

I love the fact that I grew up with the people that I go to school with now. I like the close friendships and relationships I have built with them over the years. It really feels like a family at Midway.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I feel lucky, it could have been anyone one in the entire school. I am so grateful that my teachers and the staff at Midway recognize my efforts at school. I am truly honored.





Did you know that the NC Pre-K Program may begin as early as **AUGUST 10, 2020?**



Do you have a child who will be **4 YEARS OLD** on or before August 31, 2020?

*If so, you may qualify at no cost to you for the NC Pre-Kindergarten Program, which is designed to prepare children for success in school.*

**CONTACT US EARLY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT (910)592-9399**

211 West Main Street | Clinton, NC 28328



**Join us for lunch or dinner today**



**KEEP US IN MIND FOR YOUR LARGE ORDER NEEDS- PACKAGES FOR 20 PEOPLE AND UP!**

**TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

**WARSAW**

2669 NC Hwy 24 W. Warsaw, NC 28398  
910-293-2218

**NEWTON GROVE**

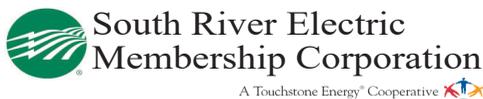
1380 Harnett Dunn Hwy. Newton Grove, NC 28366  
910-594-0415

**Your Partner In Education**

- Give Us An A
- College scholarships
- Classroom presentations
- Operation Round Up grants
- The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour
- Bright Ideas educational grants



Information on these programs and more can be found at [www.sremc.com](http://www.sremc.com).



PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335

[sremc.com](http://sremc.com)  
910-892-8071



**Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today...**

**Saluting teachers and students for all their hard work.**



**Monday-Friday 7:15 am to 5:00 pm**  
(7:15 am-8:30 am Walk-in Only)

**Weekend Clinic**  
Saturday 9:00 am to 10:00 am (Walk-in Only)  
Sunday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm (Walk-in Only)

\*Some providers accepting new patients.

**[www.clinton-med.com](http://www.clinton-med.com)**  
**910-592-6011**

## Plain View Elementary School



### **Cristy Purvis**

Grade taught: 3rd  
Subjects taught: Science, Social Studies/  
STEAM lab  
Education background: BS in Elementary  
Education/ Minor in Biology- Graduate of  
UNCP in 2000

### **Why did you go into education?**

I chose to work in education because of  
the challenge, the children and the fun!

### **What you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Plain View Elementary is special because we are a family. We work  
together to make every day a positive place to teach and learn. My  
school is in a rural community that benefits from the many families  
that support the important work we do.

### **What do you think about being a Shining Star representative?**

I am honored and blessed to be chosen as the shining star for PVES.  
It is an incredible school with a staff that are not only co-workers,  
but friends. Proud to be a part of PVES and Sampson County  
Schools!

*\*Cristy was Plain View Elementary's Teacher of the Year for 2019-20.*



### **Student: Aiden Fisher**

Age: 8 Grade: 2nd  
School: Plain View Elementary School

### **What is your favorite subject?**

Math

### **What makes your school special?**

Teachers that help me with all of my  
subjects and they help me learn. Everyone  
at my school is nice to me. My mom and I  
thought of the idea to have a sock drive during our Holiday Bazaar  
and everyone helped us collect socks - we collected over 1,300  
socks to give to the Beacon Mission in Dunn NC.

### **What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I think it is special for my principal to choose me as the Shining Star  
from PVES. I am excited to see my picture in the paper.



## Roseboro Elementary School



### **Teacher: Lorrie Cannady**

Grade Taught: 1st  
Subject Taught: General Subjects  
Education Background: Bachelor of  
Science in Education. This is Lorrie's 15th  
year in the classroom.

### **Why did you choose education?**

I wanted the time that I invested in my  
career to make a difference in the lives of  
others. I have to earn a living, but helping others and making a living  
at the same time is wonderful!

### **What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

I love everything about my school. I enjoy the building, but if I were  
in a barn with the same students and co-workers I would be just as  
happy!

### **What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

It is an honor, but to me everyone at RES is a Shining Star!



### **Student: Allegro West**

Age: 11  
Grade: 5th  
School: Roseboro Elementary School

### **What is your favorite subject?**

Science

### **What makes your school special?**

My school is special because of the way  
people are - kind and smart. When you  
need someone to lift your spirits, there is always someone to turn to.

### **What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I think it is an honor, but it comes with a lot of responsibility. It is not  
always easy to be kind and respectful, but it is really important to try  
hard!



# Roseboro-Salemburg Middle School



**Teacher: Sabrina Webb**  
Grade Taught: 6th  
Subject Taught: English Language Arts  
Education background: Bachelors in Social Science (Delta State University); Masters in Elementary Education (MS Valley State University); Educational Specialist Degree in K-12 Leadership (Jones International University)

## Why did you choose education?

I chose education, because I realized that I had a gift with kids. I volunteered at a daycare center during my high school years, and I loved it. It made me so happy to teach and nurture the kids. I felt so much joy, and I knew then, that I wanted to teach.

## What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

What I like the most about my school is that we work as a team, because we all want success for our students. Our school is special because, we foster and nurture our students to believe in themselves, so that they may flourish.

## What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am delighted to have been chosen as my school's Shining Star representative. It is always a great feeling to be recognized for doing something that I love, in such a positive aspect.



**Student: Sabrena Hogan**

Age: 13  
Grade: 8th  
School: RSMS

## What is your favorite subject?

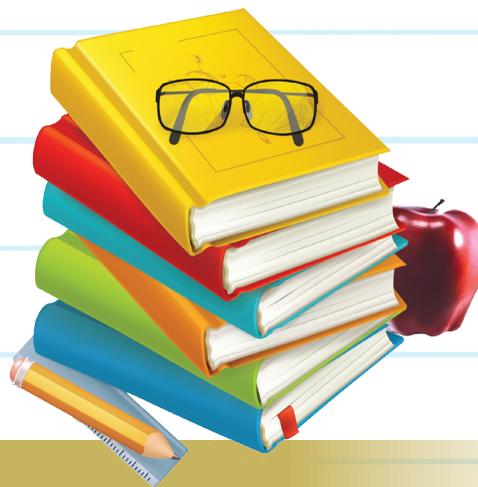
Math

## What makes your school special?

My school is special because I am able to learn with my friends and we support each other in our learning.

## What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I think it is an honor and privilege to be selected as a Shining Star for RSMS.



# Salemburg Elementary School



**Teacher: Bernita Lester Lee**  
Grade Taught: 5th  
Subjects Taught: Reading /ELA  
Education Background: She received her Bachelor of Science from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and her Master of Science from Cambridge in Boston, Mass. She has been in the teaching profession for a total of 34 years, teaching in Miami, Fla.,

Sumter, S.C. and here in Salemburg.

## Why did you choose education?

First of all, I came from a line of Educators in my family. However, I feel that becoming an Educator allows me to make a difference in the lives of as many students as I can. ... Becoming an Educator lets me impart life lessons that students will never forget and puts me in a position to influence their decisions, behaviors, strengths, weaknesses and imaginations.

## What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

The first attribute is quality leadership. It is a blessing to go to work each day and actually enjoy going. I work for an Administration that is extremely fair with faculty, staff, students and families. Also, my Colleagues are very compassionate and loving. They set high expectations for our students and they are truly committed to ensuring the success of all of the students. We have a true professional learning community where the teachers truly make a difference.

## What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star Representative?

Being chosen as a Shining Star is truly an honor! I was ecstatic when I found out, I was chosen to be the Shining Star. As a Shining Star, I want to shine as bright as possible to illuminate the way for others.



**Student: Karla Acosta**

Age: 8  
Grade: 2nd  
School: Salemburg Elementary School

## What is your favorite subject?

My favorite subject is Math because I like to add, subtract, count and solve problems.

What makes your school special? The wonderful teachers make my school special.

What do you think about being named a Shining Star? I think it's a great honor being named Shining Star. I feel very proud of myself and would like to thank my teacher and parents for their help.





**Start to  
Finish**  
YOUR  
BEST  
CHOICE



**HARRELLS**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**910-532-4575**

**HARRELLSCA.COM**



Let us help  
make your  
house a home



**M**  
MAGNOLIA HOME  
BY JOANNA GAINES

**FURNITURE FRONTIER**

2760 US-421, Clinton • 910-592-5130

Hours: Mon., Wed-Friday : 10 am - 6 pm | Sat: 10 am - 4 pm



**Four County Electric  
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Proud Partners in Education**

Four County EMC supports local communities in our service area, which provides students, schools and educators with access to tools and technology through many of our programs; in order to educate, innovate and invent.

**Youth  
Leadership  
Weekend**

Each year, a total of 20 high school juniors are eligible to participate in a weekend leadership camp.

College scholarship opportunities are also available through this program.



**Bright Ideas**

The Bright Ideas education program is offered to teachers in K-12 classrooms. The Bright Ideas grants provide funding for innovative, classroom-based projects that would otherwise not be possible.



**Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp Scholarships**

The camp provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for our youth and demonstrates our core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and particularly, commitment to community.

**Electric Safety  
Demonstration**

Our safety program is for all ages and includes a video, oral presentation and a scale model of an electrical system or a live line trailer with actual poles and high voltage lines for a more realistic demonstration.



1-888-368-7289



[www.fourcty.org](http://www.fourcty.org)

# Union Elementary School



**Teacher: Amy Bass**

Grade Taught: Kindergarten  
Education background: Undergrad and Masters, both obtained from UNC-Wilmington. She is a National Board Certified teacher.

**Why did you choose education?**

I have always enjoyed working with children. After denying the calling for several years, I finally decided to go back to school to pursue what I knew the Lord wanted me to do. I have a deep passion for helping children learn and watching them succeed. Nothing warms my heart more to see how I have impacted my students' journey into education. Watching them soak in and apply concepts that I am responsible for laying the foundation for, is a wonderful process to observe.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Where do I start? There is so much that makes Union Elementary a "Place Where Great Things Happen". My kindergarten team is amazing! We truly work together as a team to meet the greater needs of our students. Our doors are always open for our community and parents. We strive for our parents to be a part of their child's/children's education. We go above and beyond to show how much we care about their child and them, by the special activities that we plan to get and keep them involved. To me, what makes UES special is my assistant, Pam Merritt. We have worked

together for 15-16 years. We are the perfect team!! It is rare to find such a special person to work with that you also can call friend, but I have found that in Mrs. Merritt. She is definitely a treasure to have in my classroom, and I couldn't do all I do if it wasn't for her. She completes me and my room.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

This is truly a great honor! I do not do my job for recognition or praise, but rather for helping my students reach their fullest educational potential. I am blessed to be able to go to a place I love to work to do a job I absolutely love! If I "SHINE" it is only because I am where the Lord wants me to be, doing exactly what He called me to do from the very beginning; I just glad I finally obeyed!!



**Student: Theo Duncan**

Age: 6 Grade: 1st  
School: Union Elementary School

**What is your favorite subject?**

I like to go to music where I can hear my favorite song - Lean on Me.

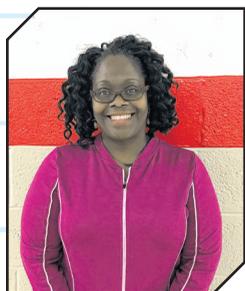
**What makes your school special?**

Learning at my school is fun and easy. I also have lots of nice friends there.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I feel super excited.

# Union Intermediate School



**Teacher: Tanya Robinson-Freeman**

Grades Taught: 3-5  
Subjects Taught: Health & Physical Education  
Education Background: Hunter College - New York, N.Y., obtaining a Bachelor of Science Degree. Masters of Education degree completed at ECU.

**Why did you choose education?**

I love learning and teaching others what I have learned.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

I love the fact that we are one BIG family - students, staff, and faculty.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

Super excited, honored, and thankful. I love my school, students, and everyone I spend my day with!



**Student: Tehila Howell**

Age: 8 Grade: 3rd  
School: Union Intermediate School

**What is your favorite subject?**

I like math because my mother teaches math and helps me.

**What makes your school special?**

It has a nice principal and teachers. They helps us grow and learn new things. I like

my teacher Ms. Melton.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I've been doing well in school and I am kind. I am a star!



## Union Middle School



**Teacher: Lori Morgan**  
 Grades Taught: 6-8  
 Subjects Taught: Music and Band  
 Education background: Bachelors of Music Education, ECU

**Why did you choose education?**  
 I have always wanted to teach. I was inspired by some wonderful teachers at an early age. After joining band in junior high,

I know I was meant to teacher band and music.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**  
 I love working at UMS because of the community atmosphere. We are a team here.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

Being the Shining Star representative is a great honor. I'm just a small part of a great team.



**Student: Ariyona Spearman**  
 Age: 14 Grade: 8th  
 School: Union Middle

**What is your favorite subject?**  
 My favorite subject is math.

**What makes your school special?**  
 The teacher at UMS make the school special

**What do you think about being named**

**a Shining Star?**

It is an honor. I try to support and help my school in any way that I can.

## Union High School



**Teacher: Litzamarie De Jesus Maceira**  
 Grades Taught: 9-12  
 Subjects Taught: Spanish I, Spanish II and Hispanic Heritage  
 Education Background: Bachelor of Arts- Birth to Kindergarten

**Why did you choose education?**  
 Being previously employed with the Migrant Education Program in Sampson

County Schools, I realized the need for quality bilingual educators, that could not only help students with limited English, but also effectively communicate with parents who are non- English speakers and give them tools to help their child at home with their growing academic needs.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**  
 I can't narrow it down to one specific thing, however, the staff and the overall environment is an excellent atmosphere for staff and students alike. Everyone is very supportive and the school motto, "Union Unite" is very true. We are very united school and work hard to everyone succeeds!

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

The first word that comes to my mind is "humbled". I am very humbled and honored that my school, Union High School, the district that I hold close to my heart has chosen me to represent them as the Shining Star representative. I am very appreciative for the support and love.

students get through everyday.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I am very honored to be named the Shining Star, something I did not expect and am very proud to be able to represent my school.



*Proudly Supporting Our Students and Educators!*



**Matthews Gifts**

352 Northeast Blvd., Clinton | 592-5100



**Matthews Healthmart**

408 Northeast Blvd., Clinton | 592-3121

**MATTHEWS**

*"Thankful to serve our friends and neighbors for over 50 years."*



**Student: Valeria Berrones-Escobar**  
 Age: 18 Grade: 12th  
 School: Union High School

**What is your favorite subject?**  
 English

**What makes your school special?**  
 The thing that makes my school special is the great, supportive staff that help us

# Mintz Christian Academy



Day of Prayer at Mintz Christian Academy

COURTESY PHOTO

**E**stablished in 2009, Mintz Christian Academy provides a Christian environment for students to grow spiritually, academically and socially. MCA desires that students come to a saving knowledge of Christ and to be transformed by His power to honor Him. MCA is fully accredited with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Cognia (AdvancED) and has grades K-12.

In April 2019, MCA opened its upper school building for middle and high school classes. This building also includes our library. Future development includes a standalone middle school building and an athletic complex. Students have the opportunity to participate in fine arts, music, drama and art as well as an athletic program that has sports for boys and girls each season, i.e., golf, volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball, as well as cross-country track.

Open enrollment will begin in February with a second "Open House" opportunity on Feb. 23 from 3-5 p.m. Campus visits are welcomed and strongly encouraged to fully appreciate the environment and to observe classes in session.

## Lower Grades

Shining Stars 2020

Excellence in Education



**Teacher: Pamela M. Spates**

Grade Taught: 4th  
Subjects Taught: Bible, Language Arts, History, Reading, Spelling  
Education background: BS in Elementary Education — Fayetteville State University; ACSI Teacher Certification

### Why did you choose education?

I chose education because I wanted to help children learn and grow. I love working with children.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

The children are a joy to teach. The coworkers I work with are encouraging. Being able to teach Bible on a daily basis and apply it to each subject during the day is a joy to my heart. Being a part of a school that starts the day with daily devotion and prayer is also one of the great highlights at MCA and helps to make us special.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

That is something I do not think about much because all the staff here are shining stars. It takes a community to help with children and letting children know you care about them is the most important thing. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be MCA's Shining Star representative.



**Student: Ava Wainscott**

Age: 11 Grade: 5th

### What is your favorite subject?

My favorite subject is history because we get to learn about our country.

### What makes your school special?

What I like about my school is that we are like one big family and I know that I have good Christian friends that I can count on.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I feel honored that people thought that I had the characteristics of being a Shining Star.



## Middle Grades



**Teacher: Christi Christianson**

Grades Taught: 6-7  
Subject Taught: Math  
Education background: B.S. – Fayetteville State University

**Why did you choose education?**

I knew early on that I wanted to be a teacher. I suppose the first time I really

realized I had the ability to teach math was my freshman year at Sampson Community College when I worked as a tutor helping others with math. I enjoyed watching the students I helped finally understand a concept with which they'd struggled.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

This is my 9th year teaching at Mintz and it is a joy. The difference at Mintz, besides being able to openly discuss my faith with students, is the primary goal. While most schools desire to put students first, Mintz strives to put God first in all things – academics, athletics, school productions. The goal is to bring glory to God and make His name known. This is what sets Mintz Christian Academy apart.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am truly blessed to be teaching at Mintz and am humbled to be chosen as their Shining Star representative.



**Student: Ellie Mireles**

Age: 14 Grade: 8th

**What is your favorite subject?**

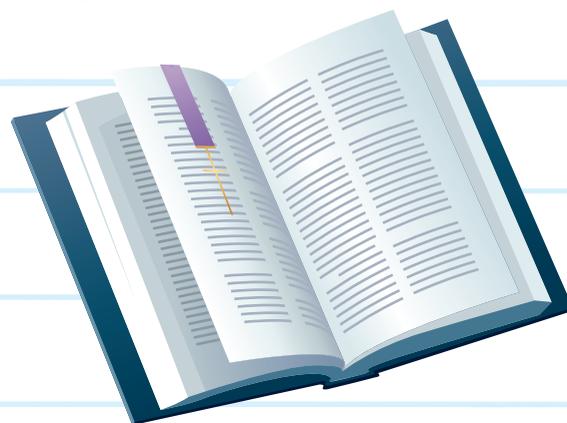
My favorite subject is Bible because I enjoy learning more about Biblical times. I have learned so much about God's word while attending Mintz.

**What makes your school special?**

MCA is special because we have an environment filled with love and respect for both Christ and each other.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I feel greatly honored that I was chosen to be a shining star out of all the other worthy Christian students at MCA. I will continue to work hard throughout my years at Mintz.



## Upper Grades



**Teacher: Aaron Underwood**

Grade Taught: 8-12  
Subject Taught: History  
Education background: MA - History

**Why did you choose education?**

I really enjoy my subject and found I could retain historical information quite well. So, a chance to spend my day

relaying stories of the past in an interesting and engaging way seemed to me a perfect fit.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Mintz has a very family-like atmosphere that might not be found in other workplaces. In most cases, MCA teachers work with the same students for several grades – instead of one and done semesters. When students finally graduate, their absence the next school year is truly felt, following years of teaching them. Our MCA faculty is amazing as well. My co-workers are always willing to answer any questions I might have and help in any way.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

The first word to come to mind is "honored." I certainly did not expect this acknowledgement. It makes me feel grateful and that I am right where God wants me to be.



**Student: Emma White**

Age: 17 Grade: 12th

**What is your favorite subject?**

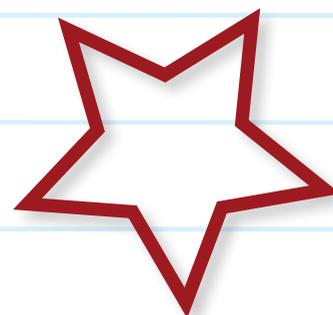
My favorite subject is History.

**What makes your school special?**

Mintz is special to me because it is so small. I have the opportunity to form relationships across all grades. Mintz is special because of the loving and encouraging atmosphere.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

I believe I work hard and I'm honored. But if I'm being honest, I don't think I'm any more deserving than some of the other students in my high school.



# HCA commits to Christian education

**F**ounded in 1970, Harrells Christian Academy is the region's only college preparatory school. An integrated, rigorous K-12 curriculum combines with competitive team sports and multiple extracurricular offerings to enable graduates to confidently apply for admission to the college or university that will best help them realize their career goals. At the same time, HCA is a fully committed Christian school. Students are exposed on a daily basis to strong Biblical instruction, communal worship and prayer, and individual mentoring by a mature Christian faculty. At Harrells Christian Academy, students' minds, hearts, bodies, and souls are all invited to grow to their God-given potential. This growth happens in a family atmosphere that can be distinctly felt when stepping on the campus.

Harrells Christian Academy is dually accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. HCA also enjoys membership in the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools and the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association. Applications for admission are available at [www.harrellsca.com](http://www.harrellsca.com). Need-based financial assistance is available to qualified applicants.



## Lower Grades



**Teacher: Lori Boone**

Grades Taught: 4-6  
Subject Taught: Math  
Education background: BA in Education,  
K-12 Math

**Why did you choose education?**

I had the opportunity to observe an elementary classroom for a course I was taking in college. From that moment, I

knew I wanted to be a teacher. Math was my favorite subject and I believed I could help students enjoy learning math and eliminate math anxiety.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

Harrells Christian Academy allows students to worship God every day while maintaining high standards and rigor in academics. I love that we recite Bible verses, sing praise and worship songs and pray daily. We are involved in mission projects that give our students the opportunity to help others. Parents are very involved and supportive with any endeavor in our classrooms. We are a family of Christians learning and growing together. That is what makes Harrells Christian Academy a special place.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I am so honored to have been chosen as our school's Shining Star. Colleagues sharing their expertise and wisdom with me are what has made me the teacher I am today. I hope the teachers I have worked with through the years can see a bit of themselves through my teaching style, strategies and classroom management.



**Student: Magdalene Parker**

Age: 9 Grade: 4th  
School: Harrells Christian Academy

**Favorite subject?**

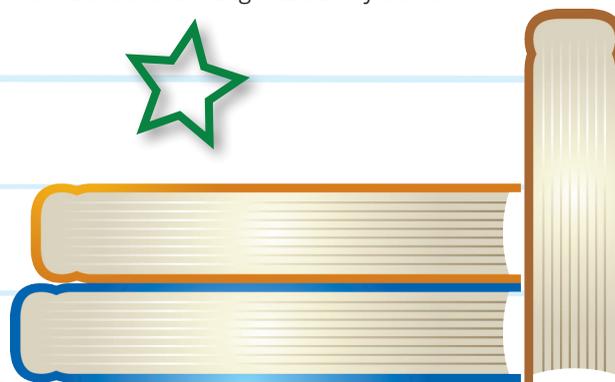
I like every subject, but Social Studies is my favorite. My teacher makes it very interesting and I like learning about the past.

**What makes your school special?**

My school is very special for lots of reasons. One big reason is because my teachers care for me and teach me about all kinds of things. I also have very good friends.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

Being a Shining Star sounds amazing. I am happy and grateful, but I think there are lots of Shining Stars at my school.



## Middle Grades



**Teacher: Jessica Register**

Grades Taught: 7-8  
Subject Taught: Language Arts  
Education background: Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication and Minor in Professional Communications from Meredith College; Secondary English Certification; and Master of Library Science from East Carolina University

**Why did you choose education?**

Although being an educator was not in my original career plan, I feel like God led me to the profession after college and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity He has given me to impact so many lives through the years. With a background in journalism and professional communication, I began my educational career teaching high school English and theatre. Years later, I earned my graduate degree in library science and have worked in both elementary and high school

libraries as a media specialist. Three years ago, God had another plan for my life and I began teaching again in the area of middle school language arts. To be honest, middle school was always a grade level that intimidated me most because those years are such a crucial time in a child's educational and emotional experience — talk about a huge responsibility. However, I have found that middle school students are awesome! I strive each day to instill a love of reading and writing in my students. I have had students who claim they despise reading to admit, "As much as I thought I didn't like to read, that was the best book I've ever read in my life!" To see that spark of enthusiasm over a novel, the pride beaming from a student who has written an original work of poetry, or to experience the moment when a room full of students gasp and look around in satisfaction because they hear one of their vocabulary words used, well, I'm just humbled to be a part of that process.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

One of the things I love the most about our school is that it is like



## Middle Grades (continued)

being a part of one huge family! Being a K-12 school, students and staff from all grade levels are able to interact and work together. Older students are able to mentor to younger ones, and staff from all grade levels and disciplines are able to collaborate and implement a shared vision of academic excellence throughout the school. In addition, I love that our students have an opportunity to grow in their spiritual faith through Bible education classes, devotions and special programs.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am absolutely honored to be chosen as a Shining Star, especially when I know there are so many superstar educators teaching at HCA. I am thankful to my peers for their kindness in selecting me to represent our school in this way.



### Student: Evan Boussias

Age: 13 Grade: 8th  
School: Harrells Christian Academy

### Favorite subject?

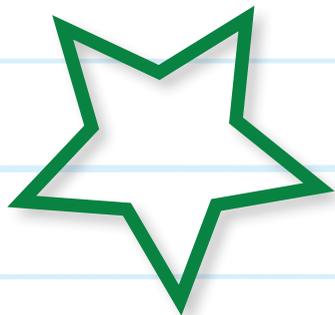
My favorite school subject is social studies. I've always enjoyed learning about history and geography.

### What makes your school special?

The staff of the school make my school special. They really can make my day, and they are really nice and good at their jobs.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I think it's an honor to be named a Shining Star. It's hard to believe out of all the middle school students, I was chosen for this title.



## Upper Grades



### Teacher: Jayne Green

Grades Taught: 10-12  
Subject Taught: French, English  
Education background: B.S. in French/  
English, Taylor University; M.S. in English/  
French, Purdue University

### Why did you choose education?

I feel like education was in my veins from an early age. My mother and

grandmother were in education. My mother was a librarian, and my grandmother was an elementary teacher. When I was a young girl, I played school with my dolls and stuffed animals. My mother would buy me workbooks and books, and I would teach my inanimate students. Spending hours in the library with my mother, I gained an appreciation not only for reading but education as a whole. I do not remember a time that I did not want to be a teacher.

### What do you like about your school/what makes it special?

Harrells Christian Academy is unique as a K-12 school. The Christian atmosphere is truly a blessing. We are united as a family of God. We support one another, pray for one another and strengthen one another. As an upper school teacher, I not only teach my students, but I have the ability to interact with the K-8 teachers and students. Recently, my high school French students taught French to the kindergartners as a French Honor Society activity. We see all the projects and activities of each level in our school.

### What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?

I am honored and humbled to receive this award. I teach with an amazing and talented group of educators. I am simply one small part in this Christian school. We all work together to educate our students and support one another.



### Student: Jeana Grace Bowker

Age: 17 Grade: 12  
School: Harrells Christian Academy

### Favorite subject?

I love French. I have been taking French since 8th grade, and I really enjoy learning new words and phrases and more about the culture. In the future, I hope to pursue a minor in French.

### What makes your school special?

My school is special to me because the students and faculty make it feel like a family. Additionally, the Christian aspect makes it feel safe and welcoming to other.

### What do you think about being named a Shining Star?

I was really excited to hear that I was named a Shining Star! It revealed to me that all my hard work with high school, college classes, my small business, and each club I am in has truly paid off!



# Sampson Early College High School



**Teacher: Lee Howard**

Grade Taught: 10th  
 Subject Taught: English 2  
 Education background: B.S. Radford College. Certified in High School English and Latin. Elementary education, Speech, Drama, and Adult Basic Education.

**Why did you choose education?**

I enjoyed learning and sharing and felt like I could offer the same to students. Watching young people grow gives me great satisfaction. Education is really fabulous.

**What do you like about your school/what makes it special?**

I like that the students are interested and interesting. They are kind and polite to each other and they understand the value of education. The small class sizes and all the staff are involved with students academically. Teachers are encouraged to be creative and it shows in how students learn.

**What do you think about being chosen as your school's Shining Star representative?**

I think there is a terrific faculty at SECHS, and I am lucky to be a colleague. It is especially nice since I taught some of my co-workers and it is nice to know that my abilities are still valued.



**Student: Yadira Paz-Martinez**

Age: 17 Grade: Junior  
 School: Sampson Early College High School

**What is your favorite subject?**

Science

**What makes your school special?**

Attending a school combined with various other schools and students makes my school really special. SECHS is a school mixed with a variety of races, cultures, and students with different ideas and perspectives. Every school has their own aspect that makes them different, but SECHS is more than a school, it is a family. Our staff and students work hard to provide a safe environment and a better world.

**What do you think about being named a Shining Star?**

Being a Shining Star is more than a recognition, it is an honor. I do not plan to take anything from this honor, but plan to hopefully continue to set a positive example for other students. I am happy that I was nominated for something so distinct. I will continue to do my best for the school and community. Thanks to the Staff for the confidence that they have in me.



**CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS**  
**DARK HORSES**  
 Whatever It Takes!  
**INVITING**  
**EXCITING**  
**INVOLVED**  
**GLOBAL**  
**UNIFYING**

(910)-592-3132 • [www.clinton.k12.nc.us](http://www.clinton.k12.nc.us)

**CAREER & COLLEGE PROMISE**  
 EARN COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL!




910.900.4084 • [SAMPSONCC.EDU](http://SAMPSONCC.EDU)



# Discover a Career with Smithfield Foods

At Smithfield Foods, we offer a range of interesting careers with great benefits. Whether it's creating engaging marketing campaigns across our famous family of brands, developing the next generation of business leaders, raising our animals with care, or producing high-quality products to feed millions across the world, you'll have an opportunity to drive innovation and impact across our business.

When you join our team, you're joining our 54,000 employees globally who contribute to our mission of producing "Good Food. Responsibly.®"

**Find the position that's right for you at  
[smithfieldfoods.com/careers](https://smithfieldfoods.com/careers)**

**Smithfield** *Good food. Responsibly.®*