



# #OconeeStrong



## September 2020

### National Merit Semifinalists Named

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recently announced the names of its semifinalists in their annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Seniors from both high schools were honored as semifinalists in the highly prestigious program.

"Congratulations to all eight Oconee County Schools students who have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for academic excellence," said Superintendent Jason L. Branch. "These students excel in their coursework, leadership, extracurricular activities, and community involvement. I commend these outstanding scholars, as well as their parents and teachers, for this tremendous accomplishment."

For more information, please click [here](#).

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OCONEE

**NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

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## NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

<b>NORTH OCONEE HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL</b>
Saketh Chaluvadi	Riley Colquitt
Cassandra He	Annika Nilsson
Kathrynne Kelley	Kevin Zhang
Felicia Pursner	
Embyr Williams	

### No-Cost Breakfast and Lunch through December

All Oconee County students now receive breakfast and lunch at no cost through the end of this semester. This change began Sept. 10, 2020 and will be in effect through Dec. 31, 2020 or as federal funding provides. As announced by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, this flexibility is being provided as the country recovers

from the COVID-19 pandemic. OCS is eligible because the system provided meals at no charge to families from March-July 2020 through the USDA Seamless Summer Program.

For more information, please click [here](#).



### Recap of August-September 2020

What a great start to the 2020-21 school year! Check out this short video from highlights from around the school system and all 11 schools.

Click above or [here](#) to check out our successful first month of school.



### Opening Oconee

COVID-19 case and quarantine information is posted each Friday afternoon on our Opening Oconee webpage located [here](#).

Both in and out of school, the following gives us the best chance to stay open:

- Mask Up, Oconee
- Maintain physical distance
- Stay home when sick
- Sanitize hands regularly

In addition, for more information on school reopening best practices, please click [here](#).

## Teachers of the Year 2020-21

Congratulations to these 11 exceptional [Teachers of the Year](#)!





**Jamie Evans**  
Oconee County Primary



**Lea Pacut**  
Colham Ferry Elementary



**Heather Bragg**  
Dove Creek Elementary



**Jessica Tiller**  
High Shoals Elementary



**Julie Payne**  
Malcom Bridge Elementary



**Keri Halleck**  
Oconee County Elementary



**Stephanie Dickson**  
Rocky Branch Elementary



**Shannon Ciddens**  
Malcom Bridge Middle



**Daniela McLean**  
Oconee County Middle



**Jade Paustian**  
North Oconee High



**Sandy Palmer**  
Oconee County High



## #SustainedExcellence

### Hog Mountain Bowl 2020



Oh what a night under the Friday Night Lights! Football season kicked off with the annual NOHS vs. OCHS match-up.

### Colham Ferry Elementary Book Snaps





Fifth graders in Mrs. Yawn's class at Colham Ferry Elementary School learned about proper nouns and showcased their learning through Book Snaps. They took pictures of proper nouns found in a book of their choice and then annotated their photos in Google Slides. What a great way to use books and technology together!

### Remembering 9/11



North Oconee High School hosted their annual 9/11 flag planting event earlier this month. Students, teachers, state representatives, and community members placed a total of 2,977 flags in the ground to honor and remember the lives lost.



### Quick Links for Easy Reference

- [Calendars](#)
- [itslearning](#)
- [Lunch Menus](#)
- [Opening Oconee Guide](#)
- [PowerSchool](#)
- [Transportation](#)

**Mask Up, Oconee**  
with Superintendent Jason L. Branch



Let's continue working together to *Keep Oconee Open!*  
For more Mask Up, Oconee videos, please [click here](#).

### **Oconee County Schools**

34 School Street, P.O. Box 146, Watkinsville, GA 30677

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

P: 706.769.5130

F: 706.769.3500

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