

NEWS

THE PLACES WE'LL HELP THEM GO!



WE'RE DOING SOME PRETTY COOL STUFF IN DEKALB COUNTY

The Office of Youth Services has reached over 1,500 people through leadership training, internship placement, academic tutoring, career development, and self empowerment! That's more than 380 students and families engaged per quarter. More than 255 organizations and nonprofits engaged last year. Over 55 youth programs offered in 10 regions around Georgia. As one of the nation's largest and leading county governments, DeKalb County has been a forerunner and innovator in projects that enhance the overall well-being of its constituents. This same innovation is necessary when developing youth programs and establishing partnerships with a principle focus on prevention and intervention to provide services that advance the lives of DeKalb County Youth. The Office of Youth Services currently provides and coordinates a continuum of programs and initiatives for youth. These programs currently expose youth to leadership development, mentorship, arts, entertainment, technology, problem solving, violence prevention, business and entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. The Office of Youth Services seeks to provide balanced programs and services to deter youth from going down a harmful path and to counteract delinquency, reduce recidivism, and maximize the prospects for youth to become positive, responsible citizens through strategic youth programs and partnerships.

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NEWS

A CONVERSATION WITH LIVING LEGENDS!



Ryan Cameron did an awesome job hosting DeKalb County's Black History Program!



Students from across the county attend "A Conversation with Living Legends"



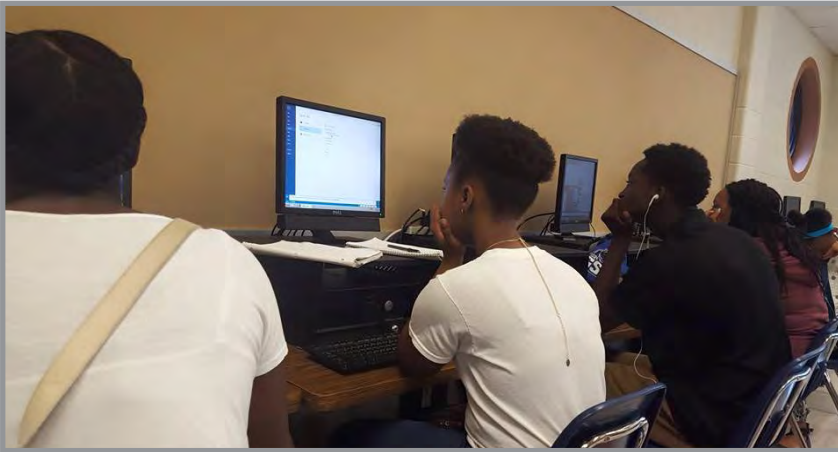
DEKALB COUNTY BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

DeKalb County continued its celebration of Black History Month with a special interaction between icons of the Civil Rights Movement and DeKalb County students. DeKalb County, in partnership with the DeKalb County School District Region 5 welcomed more than 400 students to engage in a dialogue with special panelists concerning the Civil Rights Movement and its relevance today. The program took place on, Feb. 22, 2016 from 10 a.m. – noon at the Porter Sanford, III Performing Arts Theatre & Community Center, 3181 Rainbow Dr., Decatur, GA 30034. "This catalytic event will educate the students on the civil rights movement and its relevance to the present day race relations in America," said Interim CEO Lee May. "In utilizing a live Twitter feed, we have a unique opportunity for our future community leaders to gain first-hand information from the generation that paved the way." This amazing event was hosted by V-103's Ryan Cameron and included panelists Dr. C.T. Vivian, Ms. Xeronona Clayton, Mr. J.T. Johnson, and Mrs. Rita Samuels.

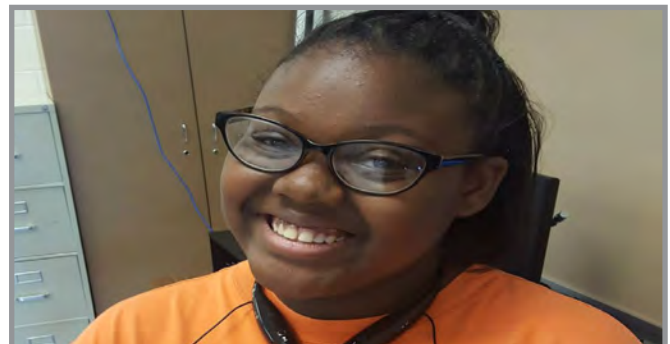
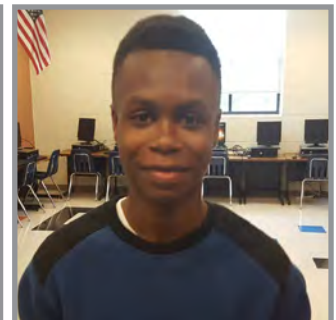
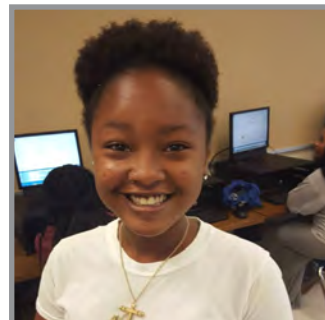
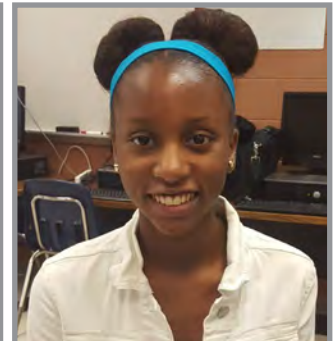
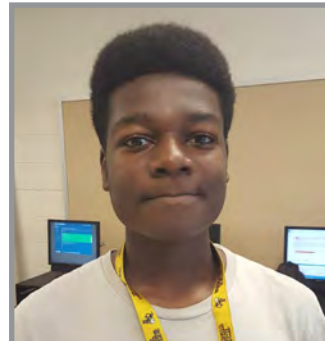


NEWS

Becoming a Technology Expert!!



DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) participants are on the path to becoming Technology Experts. The Media and Technology component understands that technology is bound to rule our present and our future. YLA technology teacher, Allen Johnson, had the vision of training and preparing all YLA students to earn certification as Microsoft Office Specialists (MOS). People who hold MOS certifications as entry-level business employee can earn as much as \$16,000 more in annual salary than uncertified peers. Currently, there are six students that have earned the title of Microsoft Office Specialists. They are moving on to receiving Expert certifications. Other students are still taking practice exams and studying to take the exam in the Spring. Joshua Gordon stated, "I feel so accomplished. I really feel good about myself." Deanna Richards who was the first to pass said, "My heart was beating so fast. I just wanted to pass. I really wanted to have it." Studies have shown that children conversant with technology show improvements in their writing, reading and math skills. Technology has also contributed to the decrease in dropout rates, improvement in student attendance and enhancement in their learning abilities. Technology in schools benefit the children during higher education and helps to lay a strong foundation for the success of their professional life.



NEWS

WHAT'S NEW AT OYS?

The Office of Youth Services invites youth on a journey of self discovery! The mission of Project One80 is to inspire DeKalb County youth in the pursuit of excellence in all areas of life. Project One80 is committed to the process of self-discovery, service to others, positive citizenship, and healthy emotional, intellectual, ethical, and physical development. Youth are challenged through an intensive group atmosphere of therapy, life skills training, personal exploration and social consciousness. This program seeks to provide youth a safe and constructive place to be heard, understood, and challenged. At Project One80 the goal is to enable all youth to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens of DeKalb County through: personal development, life skills development, positive behavior change, trusting relationship building, support system evaluation, and character development workshops. For more information or to apply contact the Project One80 Program Coordinator Lidia Quinones at 404-687-7123 or lyquinones@dekalbcountyga.gov



Fall of 2016, DeKalb County will launch an after school program called Beyond Today. The DeKalb County Government, the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, the DeKalb County School District, and community churches will work together to provide an academic, affordable, and safe after school program for Middle School students. Students will learn to use innovative techniques to enhance lifelong learning through technology,

multiple intelligences, varied instructional strategies, and interdisciplinary units. The combined backgrounds and expertise from all entities will create a comprehensive extended day that will enhance the learning from school and help students succeed. Our vision is to be a leading after school program for Middle School students in the Metro Atlanta region. Our goal is that each participant thrives in school and excels in life. For more information contact the Beyond Today Program Coordinator Yahrsiel Colbert at 404-371-2541 or ycolbert@dekalbcountyga.gov

NEWS

Building A Bright Future!



Career Development

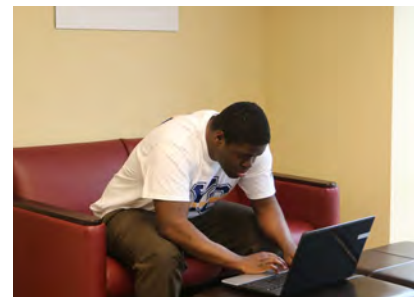
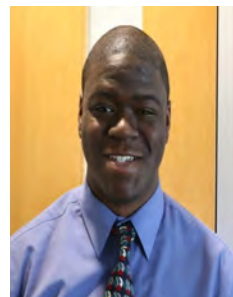


The DeKalb Youth Leadership Academy and the Department of Human Services Georgia TeenWork Internship Program hosted a Career Development Workshop for DeKalb County teens. Dolly Pope, Employment and Training Specialist, facilitated the workshop. This workshop prepared students for job training and job readiness. Finding a job can be a challenge for our youth. They need resources to help them determine what careers are available, what their interests are, and what skills they have or need to develop. The GA TeenWorks program went over resume writing, job searches and applications, and interview preparation. This workshop helped to prepare students for college scholarship interviews and the April 2016 Teen Job Fair.



OYS Intern Program

Meet Alonte, our fun-loving, smart, kind and generous social media intern. Alonte is a senior from New Orleans, LA. He is majoring in Communication and Media Studies at Clayton State University. Alonte has previous experience in film, video editing, marketing and public relations and also interned at Arabia Mountain Summer Camp. He's on schedule to receive his Bachelors of Arts Degree in May 2016. Alonte is responsible for our Office of Youth Services social media accounts and video editing our OYS Highlight videos. He spends a lot of his spare time volunteering his services for Community Resources Solutions Georgia and No Flesh Shall Glory Ministries. Alonte hopes to work in the videography and marketing field of communications and media.



NEWS

CREATING A SAFER DEKALB!



Essay winners pose for a photo!



Excited participants and winners gather for a photo!

Winners of the DeKalb County Solicitor-General's inaugural "Creating a Safer DeKalb" essay competition were recently honored by Solicitor-General Sherry Boston, members of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and United States Congressman Hank Johnson (D-GA 4th District). The awards ceremony was held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at the Manuel Maloof Auditorium in Decatur. In November 2015, the Solicitor-General's Office extended an invitation to all DeKalb County 8th graders to participate in an essay contest which would challenge them to think critically about their communities. Students were required to submit a type-written, double-spaced, 500 word essay on one of the following topics: What would you do to make your community safer? Why? How would you get it done? If you were a County Commissioner, what would you do to make your District better? How would you accomplish your goals? If you were the Chief Prosecutor/Chief of Police for DeKalb County, what would you do to protect the citizens of DeKalb County?

More than 100 students submitted essays for consideration. Each was evaluated on a variety of factors including, appropriateness of message and theme, grammar, punctuation, attention to guidelines, and thoughtfulness. Five winners representing each DeKalb County Commission District were chosen. The winners are:

- Claire Lin- Henderson Middle School (District 1)
- Bana Fitwi- Freedom Middle School (specially assigned to District 2)
- Maekaylia Jackson- Columbia Middle School (District 3)
- Alyse Dalomba- Stone Mountain Middle School (District 4)
- Briana Ross- Chapel Hill Middle School (District 5)

All of the winners were invited to read their essays during the ceremony. They were then awarded new laptops generously donated by sponsors (The Hormozdi Law Firm, Kimani I. King Attorney at Law, Shah Law Firm and Pak & McRae Law). Finally, each was presented with congressional certificates from Congressman Johnson. Additionally, every student who submitted an essay was applauded for their efforts and given certificates of achievement. They also received gift certificates for frozen treats and free bowling donated respectively by Sonic General Manager Marcela Garcia and Tom Walker, Sr. on behalf of Stars and Strikes.

NEWS

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!!



Bunny hop fun!



Youth Commissioners help paint faces!

Wade Walker YMCA hosted their annual Eggapalooza event on Saturday, March 26th on the lawn of the Wade Walker facility. The egg hunt was free and open to children ages 1 to 12. Participants brought their own basket and tons of energy for this event. Hundreds of children gathered Saturday to hunt eggs, get their faces painted, play games, and have their photographs taken with the Easter Bunny. Organizers released the children, according to their age groups, in waves to search for plastic Easter eggs on the lawn. Our DeKalb County Youth Commissioners and the Youth Leadership Academy students volunteered for this event by providing face painters, egg hinders, photographers, and live bunny services.



Easter egg hunt has begun!



The Easter bunny is here!



Having a little hula hoop fun!

NEWS

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

DEKALB COUNTY



Board of Health

DCBOH COMMUNITY CONSORTIUM

Violence is one of the most urgent public health problems we face in America. It's tragic consequences run deep and have an especially profound impact on minority youth and young minority men. A Black boy has a 1 in 3 change of going to prison in his lifetime compared to 1 in 17 for his white male counterpart

Homicides among African American males' ages 15-19 years of age represent one of the leading causes of death. Fifty-nine percent of Black males in their early 30s who dropped out of school had prison records. In support of efforts across the nation aimed at addressing violence, we are leading a new collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), through the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). OMH and the COPS Office have come together to announce the Minority Youth Violence Prevention: Integrating Public Health and Community Policing Approaches (MYVP) initiative, to engage public health organizations, law enforcement agencies, and community organizers in a new effort to curb violence and reduce disparities in access to public health for at-risk minority male youth between the ages of 10 and 18. Through MYVP approximately \$3 million has been awarded to nine demonstration sites (a partnership between a public health organization and a law enforcement agency) to help strengthen programs that combine approaches to community policing and violence prevention within a public health framework. Additional funding of \$500,000 is being awarded through the COPS Office to an organization to provide coordination, technical assistance and evaluation across the demonstration sites. Through this collaboration, OMH and the COPS Office will bring together public health, law enforcement and community groups to address violence as a public health issue. This new integrated approach to public health and community policing will also promote stronger linkages for young men in disadvantaged neighborhoods. It will link them to health and other services that are aimed at addressing social determinants of health - the conditions that impact the environments in which we live, where we work and where our children play. For additional information about the MYVP initiative and grantees visit: www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov and www.cops.usdoj.gov or contact Juanita Brunson, DeKalb County Board of Health Program Specialist.

Share Your Experiences!

We want to hear from you! Share your stories and photos of you helping youth in the DeKalb County community and have your experience featured in our next issue! Send your amazing experience and photos to youthservices@dekalbcountyga.gov or contact our office at 404-687-7123.



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