

NEWS RELEASE



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BOE salutes Trickum MS Academic Team

The **Gwinnett County Board of Education** recently saluted **Trickum Middle's** Academic Team for its first place finish in the 2012 Junior National Academic Championship Tournament. The six Trickum Middle students came out on top after defeating 47 teams from across the nation. **Principal Kay Sands** and teacher-coaches **Linda LaPerre** and **Cary Sell** introduced the student champions to the Board members during their monthly meeting in September. The School Board congratulated the students on their accomplishment.

The team qualified for the national tournament by winning first place -- out of 60 teams -- at the Georgia Academic Team Association (GATA) state finals and placing second -- out of 133 teams -- in the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)-sponsored state finals during the school year. Academic Team competitions resemble the game show Jeopardy, only they are played as teams. Questions cover geography, science, mathematics, language arts, art, history, music, literature, sports, spelling, and current events. The 2011-2012 Trickum Middle team was comprised of 8th graders **Brent Bessemer, Keaton Law, Jordan Rice, and Julie Wang**; 7th grader **Jason Fan**; and 6th grader **Ansel Ahabue**.

Forty-seven middle and junior high schools throughout the country competed simultaneously in Washington D.C., Chicago, and New Orleans. Because Trickum Middle finished undefeated throughout the entire three-day tournament and no competitor at any of the other competition sites had a higher record, the Trickum Middle team was crowned the National Champion.

This is the 14th year that Trickum Middle has fielded an Academic Team.

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