



PFTSTA Awards, Honors & Publications 2014-2015



PFTSTA:

Patrick Taylor Academy is ranked 49th in *Daily Beast/Newsweek's* [America's Best High Schools](#) and first in the state of Louisiana.

Patrick Taylor Academy [receives an A from the state of Louisiana and ranks second in the state](#) and first in the Jefferson Parish Public Schools.

Patrick Taylor Academy is ranked in Niche.com Best Public High Schools as [fourth in the state of Louisiana](#) and [third in the metro New Orleans area](#).

Patrick Taylor Academy received a cash award from the Patrick Taylor Foundation for sending 10 senior division projects to the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair. The award will be split among the seven qualifying high schools.

Faculty and Staff:

Jaime Zapico was named the 2016 [JPPSS High School Principal of the Year](#).

Janell Simpson (science) received a grant from the Peabody Circle Fund, Louisiana State University (LSU) College of Humanities, to provide professional development to high school science teachers at Colegio Concepcion, Chile. She will be working with a team of educators from the LSU Schools of Education and Agriculture as part of the Coastal Roots program

Cheryl Bordelon (ELA) and **Maggie Grindstaff** (ELA and Math) received service learning grants for three separate projects from The Brown Foundation. The award gives \$12,000 to run programs for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students in English Language Arts and one project is cross curricular with 7th grade science and AP environmental science and another with the music department.

Jasmine Hernandez (counselor) was named the Multi-level School Counselor of the Year by the Louisiana School Counselor Association.

Angela Guthie (math) was named [the 2014 Outstanding High School Mathematics Teacher by the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics \(LATM\)](#).

Cheryl Bordelon (ELA) was named PFTSTA Teacher of the Year.

Kelly Maher (technology) was named [LACUE Educator of the Year for Region 1](#)

Elizabeth Kahn (librarian) was nominated as an Outstanding Educator by the University of Chicago.

Lisa Valence (math) and **Maggie Grindstaff** (math) received [a Quality in Science and Mathematics \(QSM\) grant for 2014-15 to purchase new math materials.](#)

Elizabeth Kahn (librarian), **Kelly Maher** (technology), and **Susanna Klusendorf** (math) all received Donors' Choose grants to fund special projects in their classroom.

Janell Simpson (science) received \$1000 cash from the James de la Houssaye Teacher/Mentor award that includes an additional \$1000 cash award for the school.

Students:

Kayla Tarr [was named a National Merit Scholar.](#)

Marco Flores and **Henry Hazlett**, won second place in the UNO-STARS Python Programming Competition.

The following students qualified to attend and will compete in the Academic Games National Tournament: **Abdullah Syed, Edward Johnson, Kendel Irwin, Keanu Bartolome,** and **James Westman.** **Kayla Tarr** and **Dylan Vasquez** also qualified but are unable to attend.

Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search

The following student qualified to attend the Grand Recognition Ceremony at Duke University for her performance on the ACT:

Kaitlyn Esneault

The following students qualified for State Recognition for their performance on the ACT:

David Abadie

Ava Arabie

Madison Bertucci

Kaitlyn Esneault

Sheila Garcia

Ella Grindstaff

Ethan Leblanc

Ryunn Naquin

Austin Nguyen

Bruce Quach

Gary Ramee Jr.

Olivia Sonnier

Victoria Wilches

Elizabeth Womack

State Literary Rally Divison III

Tyler Libert	Advanced Math	3 rd Place
Alexandra Miserendino	Environmental Science	2 nd place
Chau Nguyen	Geometry	2 nd place
Johnny Thai	Physical Science	2 nd Place
Quentin Andrus	Physics	1 st place and overall winner
Sydney Monix	Psychology	1 st place
Michaela Brown	Spanish I	2 nd Place

Greater New Orleans District Literary Rally Divison III

Tyler Libert	Advanced Math	1 st place
Harry Reiner	Biology	3 rd place
Suliman Hamed	Chemistry	3 rd place
Jacob Leblanc	English I	1 st place
Matthew Trochez	English III	2 nd place
Alexandra Miserendino	Environmental Science	1 st place and overall winner
Chau Nguyen	Geomety	3 rd place
Madeline Fryer	Health	3 rd place
Johnny Thai	Physical Science	1 st place
Quentin Andrus	Physics	1 st place
Michaela Brown	Spanish I	1 st place
Sydney Monix	Psychology	1 st place and overall winner
Justin Lightsey	Spanish III	2 nd place

Quentin, Andrus was named a National Merit Finalist.

Kristen Stamp and **Edward Johnson** were named National Achievement Finalists.

Jefferson Parish Non-Point Source Pollution and Solutions Poster and Essay Contest
Posters

Ava Lincoln	Grade 6	2 nd place
Veronica Suazo	Grade 6	3 rd place
Kylee Ponthieux	Grade 6	Honorable Mention
Darbie Tullier	Grade 7	1 st place
Connor Folse	Grade 7	3 rd place
Asia Noah	Grade 8	1 st place
Khanh Nguyen	Grade 8	3 rd place
Jayde Arnoult	Grade 8	Honorable Mention

Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair (GNOSEF)

Madison Berard Environmental Management 1st place
Madison Berard was selected as a Grand Award winner receiving an all-expense paid trip to the INTEL International Science Fair and a \$1000 scholarship from the Patrick Taylor Foundation. Madison was also selected as an alternate delegate to I-SWEEEP in Houston TX.

Edward Johnson Computer Sciences 2nd place
Edward Johnson received a \$200 cash prize from Intel Excellence.

Johann DeJesus Earth and Planetary Science 3rd place
Johann DeJesus was awarded \$75 from the New Orleans Geological Society.

Kiara Horton Environmental Science 3rd place

Kayla Tarr Cellular and Molecular Biology 4th place

Morgan Brown Engineering 4th place
Morgan Brown received \$150 from American Petroleum Institute.

Sydney Monix Medicine and Health 4th place
Alexandra Kirkland received a special award from Gulf Coast Safety and Training.

Gorium Bush received \$50 from the New Orleans Geological Society and \$25 from the Sierra Club.

Madison Pierce and **Valerie Ruiz** received the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

The MathCounts team, comprised of 7th graders **Bruce Quach**, **Ethan LeBlanc**, **James Westman** and **Alex Fryer**, earned 3rd place in the Chapter Competition at UNO. This qualifies them to compete in the state competition.

Kayla Tarr was selected as the high school student of the year by the faculty.

Metaxenia Evangeloulis was selected as the middle school student of the year by the faculty.

Sydney Monix was awarded a [POSSE Foundation Scholarship to Tulane University](#).

Academic Games Equations Tournament

Senior Team Division Team 3rd place

Dylan Vasquez

Kayla Tarr

Alexandra Miserendino

Edward Johnson

Abdullah Syed

James Westman undefeated (team did not place)

MAO Math Tournament at Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Dylan Vasquez Precalculus 2nd place

Chau Nguyen Geometry 1st place

Jacob LeBlanc Geometry 4th place.

PFTSTA Team Interschool Test 1st place

Destiny Burnett, **Jonathan Griffith**, **Evan LeBlanc**, **Jacob LeBlanc**, **Alexandra**

Miserendino, **Chau Nguyen**, **Abdullah Syed**, **Kayla Tarr**, and **Dylan Vasquez**

PFTSTA Team Division II Sweepstakes 3rd place

MAO Math Tournament at Brother Martin High School

PFTSTA Team Division II Sweepstakes 1st place (3 way tie)

Tyler Libert, Alexandra Miserendino, and Dylan Vasquez competed in Precalculus, **Maryann Yacoub** in Algebra II, **Chau Nguyen** and **Jacob LeBlanc** in Geometry, and **Logan Barrios, Alex Gelpi, Bailey Andras, Zoey Prado, Evan LeBlanc, and Hannah Porta** in Algebra I.

MAO Math Tournament at Lafayette High School

Edward Johnson Calculus 4th place

Calculus Ciphering Team of 1 4th place

Dylan Vasquez Advanced Math Individual 2nd place in and 4th place in

Precalculus Ciphering Team of 1 4th place

Chau Nguyen Geometry 1st place

Jacob LeBlanc Geometry 4th place

Potpourri Team: **Jacob LeBlanc, Sydney Monix, Chau Nguyen, and Kayla Tarr**, placed 2nd out of all schools participating.

PFTSTA Team Division II Sweepstakes 3rd

MAO Math Tournament at Ben Franklin High School

Jacob LeBlanc individual in Geometry 2nd place

Zoey Prado individual in Algebra 1 3rd place.

Jacob LeBlanc and Chau Nguyen
Geometry Math Bowl Team 3rd place

Bailey Andras, Alex Gelpi, Chris Otero and Zoey Prado
Algebra 1 Math Bowl Team 1st place

Academic Games Propaganda Tournament team results:

Middle Division Team 2nd Place

Keanu Bartolome

James Westman

Christian Blakely

Charlie Cosse

Joseph Schexnayder

Bruce Quach

Senior Division Team 3rd Place

Abdullah Syed

Kayla Tarr

Edward Johnson

Dylan Vasquez

Alexandra Miserendino

Academic Games Propaganda Tournament individual results:

Middle Division: **Bruce Quach** - 4th place

Junior Division: **Keanu Bartolome** - 2nd place

Senior Division: **Dylan Vasquez** - 2nd place and **Kayla Tarr** - 3rd place

Colin Bardwell was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist.

Destiny Burnett 's AP Environmental Science research paper, "How is vegetation health affected when it is disturbed by human development?" won third place from the Thacher Environmental Research Award.

Destiny Burnett was selected by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), in the first annual Teen Read Week Blogging Contest. She has [written an article for YALSA's blog, The Hub](#), during Teen Read Week in October, 2014.