



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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McClure Students Ready For First Meeting as Advisors to State Superintendent

McClure Middle School Principal Jaynath Hayes says she wasn't completely surprised to learn that state Superintendent Richard Woods had appointed not one, but two of her students to his 2018-2019 Superintendent's Advisory Council.

Grace Risinger and Preston Taylor, both 8th graders at McClure, were named to the prestigious panel in September.

"I wasn't that surprised, but only because I know the caliber of these kids," said Principal Hayes. "It's an honor that every day we get to serve students like Grace and Preston, students who represent not only McClure so well in everything they do, but our district and our county as well. Now they will be representing Paulding County at the state level. They have a distinct voice and it deserves to be heard. They want to highlight where they are from and bring important issues to the table, and I could not be prouder of them both."

Ms. Hayes said both have been diligently prepping for the first meeting of the council which will take place on Oct. 10, 2018.



Grace Risinger and Preston Taylor

According to the state Department of Education, Grace and Preston are two of more than 120 students selected from schools throughout Georgia. Throughout the school year, these middle and high school students will meet with Superintendent Woods to discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom. Members of the Student Advisory Council will also discuss other issues related to education, serve as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools, and participate in service projects to benefit schools and students.

They were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants who applied to serve on the council. Students were chosen based on the strength of their essay answers, which focused on their ideas for public education as well as their community service experience.

McClure Student Advisors

According to Melissa Barber, who is the English Language Arts Department Chair and teaches 9th grade-level Honors Literature at McClure, both students are outstanding choices to represent McClure and Paulding County on the advisory council.

“Preston is a hard-working and conscientious student. When we work in collaborative groups, he often takes a leadership role in helping his group get started and stay focused,” said Ms. Barber. “He is always ready and eager to help out a student who may be struggling, and he does so in a kind and constructive manner. He is well-versed in what it takes to be a successful 8th grade student and would be an excellent choice to work in an advisory role.”

She had similarly kind words to say about Grace.

“Gracie is a diligent and dedicated student. She is always well-organized and works hard in her classes,” said Ms. Barber. “Other students listen to her when we work in collaborative groups and she can always be counted on to be doing the right thing. She is well-respected among her peers and is an outstanding choice to be on this advisory committee.”

Meetings of the Student Advisory Council will be held October 10, November 28, February 5, and May 13.

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