



BIOTECH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

October 25, 2017

FRESHMEN BIOTECH ROUND-UP

ACT PREP...GOOGLE DOCS



On Thursday, August 10, Southwood High School hosted a Freshman Round-up for all Biotechnology Magnet Academy students. About 55 freshmen and their families received basic Biotech Magnet information, their schedule and a Biotech Academy tee shirt. They were treated to stuffed potatoes and all the fixings with cake for dessert. Mr. Roberts, Ms. Fleming and Ms. Snyder gave them an overview of high school and shared expectations to make their high school career successful. Biotech upper classmen were on hand to help and share their favorite thoughts about being members of the Biotech Magnet Academy. **Welcome Freshmen!! We are so glad you are Biotech Cowboys!!**



Want to get into the college of your choice? Want to receive a scholarship to pay tuition, books, room and board? There are two factors that will determine your scholarship eligibility...your GPA and your ACT score. This means if you want to receive a scholarship to cover all your college needs you need to keep your GPA up. The other thing you must do is prepare for the ACT. This fall, many Biotech seniors are taking ACT Prep and will take the October ACT. In the spring, the Biotechnology Academy juniors will be taking ACT prep class during school in preparation for taking the schoolwide ACT in March.

Also Ms. Williamson, your Biotech Navigator, has prepared an ACT preparation packet that she can deliver to you digitally. It contains tips for all 4 content tests, along with sample test items, and even a practice test you can take and score. If you need additional content help, it will provide you with a link to BPC Open Campus, where you can take content modules to help you learn and understand the concepts tested on the ACT. So, drop by her office or send her an email and she will be happy to explain the packet to you and share it with you through Google Docs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ACT Dec 9 registration deadline is
Friday, November 3

Jambalaya Ticket Money due
Wednesday, November 1

Jambalaya Fundraiser
Saturday, November 4

Biotech Fee due on
Friday, December 1

BIOSTART INTERNSHIP BEGINS!!

Tuesday, August 15 was the first day of the BioStart internship for 8 Biotech Academy seniors. These students are paired with a research mentor and they will be doing research on a variety of molecular, cellular and health fields. The first week the students learned about campus safety and participated in radiation training, lab safety training, and employee on-line training.

Ms. Williamson asked the interns to give her their impressions of their first day and here is what some of them said. “Today was my first day and it was great. We could see how much this internship would impact us in our future. It will open many doors for us and I can't wait to start my research. It is a great opportunity and I am glad to be a part of it!” said **Anaya Cooley**. **Grayson Roberts** replied, “Today has really reassured me on my future. I know for sure that being in the science field is what I want to do. I'm so happy I've been blessed with this opportunity. I know that this internship is going to help me expand my knowledge of the science field and I hope to truly make an impact on the research I'm taking part in.” “Today was a grand experience of my first day of interning. This semester long internship will teach me multiple life and scientific lessons; along with those lessons will be fun and interesting conversations. The full amount of this experience will change my life by opening doorways and opportunities throughout my life,” thought **Anthony Preston**. **Tatjana Cotton** said, “My favorite part about the first day was seeing how far interns from the previous years went in their fields, and how diverse and important the advancements they made in the scientific community were as a result.” “Today has made me realize that this is actually happening and that we've actually made it this far. We were also presented so much insight on how this internship could help with college and job opportunities.



I'm super excited about this journey and wish everyone success with their experiments,” explained **Raven Bowman**. **Anna Gregory** stated, “Today was definitely an experience. We had to get our paperwork done and we were able to get our badges. When I got my badge, it actually sunk in that I am an intern! I'm super excited to be able to be in this amazing process.” “I think the internship will be my favorite part of my day this semester. My mentor helps me to do my best no matter the problem and is very supportive and enthusiastic. Everyone that works in the lab is very positive and I think it is the perfect supportive environment for me to learn and truly think about my future,” commented **Hailey Mathews**. **Congrats BioStart interns the Biotech Academy knows you are going to do a great job!!!!**



SHS BIOTECH STUDENTS PROVIDE AID FOR PORT ARTHUR



At 6:00 AM Tuesday September 5, two box trucks, a U-Haul truck, and two trucks pulling trailers all containing cleaning supplies, water, non-perishable food, hygiene products, dog food and clothing left for Port Arthur, Texas to come to the aid of the Hurricane Harvey victims. This caravan was followed by a bus load of students anxious to do their part to help those who had lost everything in this tragedy. Among the students were **Kailia Blalock, Deneis Brown, Kayla Graham, Ry’Kell Johnson, Durrell Morris, Grayson Roberts, Ravion Shelly, Madylon Sizemore, Waylon Smith, Kennedi Watkins and Shelby Young**, all members of the Biotech Magnet Academy.

Once the Southwood volunteers got to Port Arthur, they visited 3 housing areas and were looking for other places they could help. They passed a National Guard distribution center and noticed a long line of cars waiting for assistance. The caravan stopped and immediately and the students were put to work taking orders from the line of cars and providing the hurricane survivors with the items they brought. Mr. Roberts said the National Guard commander was so impressed the students’ self-motivation and drive, not needing to be told what to do, but immediately taking action. They even provided hurricane victims with a plate of jambalaya and water that was being cooked for the volunteers. Southwood Cowboys at their BEST!!

TWO SENIORS DOING ALTERNATIVE INTERNSHIPS



This year besides having the 8 BioStart internships with Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Louisiana State University’s Department of Biological Sciences and the Norton Art Gallery Foundation are providing internship opportunities for seniors.

La’Juante’ Thompson is working with Dr. Ashley Fitzgerald at LSU. She is learning lab skills and scientific process which she will apply to cancer research. She is also acting as a lab assistant and observing college classes. La’Juante is earning 1 hour of college credit for her internship. About her first day La’Juante’ said, “It was good. Work has already started.”

Chloe Wingrove is working with Laura Bearden at the Norton Art Galley Foundation. She is an educational intern learning the many facets of educational pedagogy, classroom management and educational program preparation and delivery. About her first day Chloe said, “It was great! I think I’m really going to enjoy it.”

Both students receive 3 Carnegie units for their internships. They are getting hands-on experience learning the careers and professions connected to their internships.

GOOD LUCK JUNIORS AND SENIORS TAKING THE ACT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 (SEE “WHAT TO DO RIGHT BEFORE YOU TAKE THE ACT” ON PAGE 5)

MS. WILLIAMSON WELCOMES BACK BIOTECH STUDENTS



Biotech students welcome back for another exciting year in the Biotechnology Magnet Academy. Ms. Williamson visited sophomores, juniors, and seniors Biotechnology students in their English or American history classes and the Biotech freshmen got to have a class meeting. She shared the parameters of her job and what she could do to help the students with their grades, ACT, college applications, and scholarships. She also provided her contact information and office hours. Students got a sticker they could put in their notebooks outlining this information.

Parents, you too can contact Ms. Williamson. Her cell phone number is 318-564-6319 and her email is biotechnavigator@gmail.com. She is at Southwood on Monday from 12 to 4, Tuesday from 8 to 4 and Wednesday 8 to 11. Please feel free to call or email her if you have a problem or a question.



WHY BIOTECH FEES AND FUNDRAISERS?

What does the Biotech Magnet Academy do for you? It offers advanced science and math classes for you to be prepared for your health sciences and engineering careers. It buys items to help the Biotech coordinators recruit the best possible group of freshmen for the Biotech Academy Program. It provides giveaway items for you like tee shirts, pens and pencils. It pays for all Biotech sophomores to take the ACT in the spring of their sophomore year to establish a baseline score on this college admissions test. It supports student and parent communication through the Biotech Newsletter. It provides ACT Prep for juniors and seniors to help you improve your ACT score. It supports receptions for interns and Recognition Night. It provides trophies and Biotech Magnet cords for graduating seniors and so much more.

At sixth period Monday September 18, the Biotech Magnet Academy had a meeting to discuss how we would pay for all the benefits the students receive by being participants in this outstanding magnet program. They were given 4 jambalaya tickets to sell with \$32 for these tickets due on Wednesday, November 1st to Ms. Snyder (freshmen and sophomores) and Ms. Fleming (juniors and seniors). This fundraiser sponsored by the Southwest Louisiana Rotary Club will be held on Saturday, November 4. Students were also notified a Biotech Magnet fee of \$30 is due Friday, December 1 and should be submitted to the "Pay For It" website (www.payforit.net) or to Ms. Fleming or Ms. Snyder. Southwood High School and the BRF provide most the support for the Biotech Magnet Academy, but we need each student's commitment to facilitate this fantastic program.

BIOTECH SENIORS DO SERVICE PROJECTS OVER THE SUMMER

In July, **Anna Gregory** traveled to Pilaqwen, Honduras and Tucugulpia, Honduras on a mission trip with Brookwood Baptist Church. Eight students and 7 adults went to conduct Vacation Bible School for the young children of the area. Their goal was to share the Gospel, however, it had a huge impact on Anna as well. She felt her love for Christ grow and realized she could develop relationships with children to whom she could not even communicate. She was so surprised that the children got so excited over the smallest things like pipe cleaners. This made Anna realize how blessed she really is and how much she should be grateful for. This experience was not without its challenges like not having a cell phone, but she really loved it. She feels it really helped to reset her priorities.



Camp Rainman was held on June 12 through the 15 at the Clara Springs campsite in Pelican, Louisiana. Two of our Biotech seniors, **Tatjana Cotton** and **Diamond Whitaker** had the opportunity to be counselors for this camp. This is a 4-and-a-half-day outdoor experience for persons 10 and up that have autism.

The counselors helped the campers participate in activities like fishing, boating, basketball, rock climbing, archery and swimming. Tatjana and Diamond had an impact on their campers. Diamond said her camper said this had been the best year and Tatjana has been able to stay in touch with her camper on social media. The campers impacted the Biotechers also. After the camp, Diamond realized she really liked working with people especially those with special talents. Tatjana said, "It was enlightening to see people with social differences develop a strong relationship with me...we actually became friends." **Congratulations ladies for taking part of your summer to make a difference in other people's lives.**

PIZZA LUNCH TO HONOR BIOSTART DONORS

On Tuesday, August 29, Dr. McMartin, Principal Investigator for the BioStart Program, hosted a pizza luncheon to honor the **BRF, Poindexter Foundation**, and the **Louisiana Health Sciences Center Foundation** for their financial support of the BioStart Internship Programs. This event was attended by donors, the staff of the Biotechnology Magnet Academy, the BioStart research mentors and BioStart interns. Mentors introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their research. Interns identified themselves and explained their future career goals. Southwood High School and the Biotechnology Magnet Academy Program appreciate the generous donations of these organizations.



WHAT TO DO RIGHT BEFORE YOU TAKE THE ACT

Take a study break. You should not study the day (or the night) before the ACT!

Eat dinner. Include in your meal lots of brain foods like tuna, complex carbohydrates (potatoes and pasta), tomatoes, avocados, almonds and walnuts and even dark chocolate.

Remember your test center is Southwood High School.

Gather your materials including a non-graphing calculator, your school ID, your admission ticket, 2 #2 sharpened pencils, and a watch (NOT YOUR CELL PHONE).

Get a good night's sleep.

Eat breakfast including brain food like oatmeal with almonds or walnuts.

Be on time. You need to be at the Learning Center a little before 8 AM.

Dress in layers especially if you tend to get cold.

CONGRATS TO ARIZONA MINISTER BIOTECH STUDENT- OF-THE-QUARTER



Arizona Minister is the Biotech Student-of-the-Quarter. Arizona is a sophomore at Southwood and is an outstanding student. She was on the honor roll last year and received a certificate for High Academic Achievement in the Biotech Academy. Arizona is very active at Southwood playing soccer and participating on the ROTC Raider Team. She is also a member of Drama Club and Book Club and wants to become a member of Mu Alpha Theta. Arizona wishes to be a neonatal nurse or a pediatrician, because she has always loved children. She has lots of brothers and sisters. Her favorite subjects in school are English and math. She likes math because it always stays the same regardless of what language you speak or your culture. English is a favorite because she enjoys using words to express herself. Arizona looks up to her sister because she has always been there to support her. Her philosophy of life is “learn from your past, but look always to the future.” **Thank you, Arizona, for being such an outstanding Biotechnology Magnet Academy student!!**

INTERNS ATTEND BRF ANNUAL MEETING

The BRF supporter of the Biotechnology Magnet Academy, the Biotech Navigator and the BioStart Intern Program held its Annual Meeting at East Ridge Country Club. The BioStart interns and Alternative interns were invited to attend. Also in attendance were Dr. Ashley Fitzgerald, LSUS Biological Sciences Mentor and Micah Stewart, Norton Art Gallery Foundation mentor. The students and mentors were treated to a wonderful lunch and got to hear about all the programs supported by the BRF including the Ventures Program, of which they are a part. They also got an explanation about the current controversy between the BRF, University Health and the State of Louisiana and were encouraged to write their legislators.



SOUTHWOOD HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL TITLE ONE STEM COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

At Southwood High School on Saturday, October 7 the Caddo Parish Title 1 Department hosted a STEM College and Career Fair. The theme of this event was “Treasure Your Child’s Talents.” The opening session started with a presentation of the colors by Biotech Academy students **Cadet Ravion Shelley** and **Cadet Madelyn Sizemore** under the direction of Sargent Russell Mason. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ali Ahmad, Director of Operations for Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana, was introduced by **Tajuana Cotton**, Biotech Academy senior. Dr. Ahmad’s message was very timely. He explained that most of the jobs in Louisiana in the next decade will be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related. It is so important that educational providers develop a work force able to meet these demands. He said that all companies from WalMart to the largest manufacturing corporations will need competent workers to fill these positions.

Parents and students were then invited to visit with the multitude of exhibitors including BAFB, BPCC Cyber and Industrial Technology, Cyber Innovation Center, Digital Media Institute, LSUHSC School of Medicine, and Southern University to name a few. Of course, our Biotech Academy students were there to showcase their talents. **Vanessa Aviles**, **Logan Martin**, **Justin Persilver**, **Justin Pham**, and **Barrett Pollard** demonstrated their robotics skills. BioStart Interns **Anna Gregory** and **Raven Bowman** showed the visitors how to set up a gel electrophoresis. While **Tajana Cotton** and **Kayte Duhon** wowed students and parents with an explanation of their research at LSUHSC. Ms. Fertitta was aided by Arizona Minister in providing a glimpse into Google Classroom.



REMEMBER THE END OF THE SEMESTER IS ONLY 55 DAYS AWAY (INCLUDING WEEKENDS), SO KEEP ON DOING GREAT THINGS AND REMEMBER...

