



Muscofee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Blackmon Road Student Wins 1st in State “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest



(Columbus, GA)-Carson McCrea, a 6th grade student at Blackmon Road Middle School, wins the 12th Annual **“If I Were Mayor”** essay contest sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association. Organizers announced the state winner at an awards luncheon in Atlanta Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

“We are proud and fortunate to have Carson represent our school, district, and state,” said Blackmon Road principal, Marty Richburg.

Carson’s essay was selected from a group of more than 12 districts and over 6,000 essays submitted by 6th grade students throughout Georgia! She was awarded a \$250 prize.

For more information, contact Blackmon Road Middle School, 706-565-2998.

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“If I Were Mayor, I Would ...”
By Carson McCrea
Blackmon Road Middle School

If I were Mayor, I would do many things to improve the city I live in. First, I would make improvements in the area of crime prevention. Second, I would change the way property owners are taxed and finally, I would focus on city beautification projects.

Crime prevention is a problem in every city. No one wants to live in a place that has a high crime rate. In Columbus, I would put in place more targeted police patrols. I would put these patrols in parts of town with higher crime rates. Targeted police patrols are a form of Community Policing where the police officer always works in the same area. They get to know the people who live and work in their area. This way they know where the problems are more likely to occur.

Property tax rates are a big problem in Columbus. In Columbus, voters put a freeze on property taxes. This means new property owners pay a larger portion of property tax to the city. The freeze does not allow the tax to increase as the cost of city services increase. The unequal tax causes many new people to this area to buy homes in the counties around Columbus or in Alabama.

Beautification of Columbus makes people want to move to Columbus or stay in Columbus by making a good first impression. Sometimes beautification can be just small things planting flowers or trees along the roads or in the city parks. When people work together to clean up their neighborhoods, they take more pride in where they live. They also get to know their neighbors which can also help in the crime prevention area.

In conclusion, as Mayor, I would feel it is my responsibility to make changes that benefit the current citizens as well as making the city attractive to new citizens. I believe the issues of crime control, equal taxes, and having a city that presents a clean and attractive image is important to citizens already living here and will help attract new citizens to our city.