

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twenty eight Heritage Oak middle school students travelled to Windermere, Florida December 1-5th to represent the school in the annual Meritas Games and Fine Arts Festival held at Disney's Wide World of Sports. The festival brought together students from ten Meritas schools, worldwide, to compete in athletics and combine fine arts talents.

The greatest successes of the event were when the Heritage Oak Soccer Team won the bronze medal in the pouring rain and the "Blue" Volleyball Team won the Championship Game. The "Green" Volleyball Team took 6th place out of 12 teams. Additionally, the Basketball Team placed 5th out of 12.

Though the short distant track events were cancelled due to the rain, sprinter Jonathan Paez was able to represent Heritage Oak runners as he placed 3rd in the 1600.

Because Heritage Oak did not have a full baseball team attending, eighth grader Nekeeth Sheth and sixth grader Jake Roman were recruited to play baseball on the North Broward Private School (Florida) and Rancho Solano (Arizona) Private School Teams. North Broward advanced to the Championships and Nekeeth pitched the complete championship game resulting in a two hit shut out. He struck out 10 players to earn the championship medal.

After the daily events, the students were able to visit Disney Quest, a four-story indoor theme park, attend a Meritas Alumni Band Concert in the Downtown Disney Center Quad, and enjoy the evening at Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party in Disney's Magic Kingdom.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.

About the Meritas Family of Schools

Meritas LLC is a global family of unique and distinctive schools. Each school member is a student-centric community sharing certain core values as well as the privileges and opportunities of belonging to a worldwide network, whilst enjoying a high degree of local governance and the special characteristics arising from its unique settings, traditions, history, and culture.

Meritas schools are academically aggressive and strive for excellence for their students and their learning communities. They define and share "best practices" and are always seeking to improve. They are unrelentingly engaged in inspiring every student to achieve his or her full potential, and toward that end, they offer a wide array of learning and growth experiences both in and outside the classroom, at home and abroad. In this context, every opportunity is given to student, regardless of aptitude, to graduate successfully and thrive at university.