



CMS OLYMPIANS — This spring the Clinton Middle School's Science Olympiad team won the state title for the 17th year in a row against charter and STEM schools in South Carolina. Now, it's working to raise \$25,000 for its trip to represent South Carolina middle schoolers at Nationals at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

2019 Science Olympiad

CMS again representing state, fundraising for May 28 trip to Nationals, Cornell University

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

Even in a year filled with major rules changes to the state level, Science Olympians from Clinton Middle School again won the right to represent South Carolina for the 17th consecutive year in Nationals. The team is fundraising for the \$25,000 trip to Nationals at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

So far the team has two fundraisers planned at FATZ in Clinton, with a Spirit Night on Thursday, May 16 and a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 25.

The Clinton Middle School team has traveled to Nationals three straight years, and that follows 14 years of state titles as Bell Street Middle School, said CMS Science Olympiad Coach Terri O'Shields, who teaches at Clinton High School. Each year Nationals are held in different locations. Team members are excited about the plans for this trip, since Cornell University, and the city of Ithaca is a hub for several science museums and exhibits, such as a Carl Sagan Planet Walk in downtown Ithaca. On the way the team will make stops at Appalachia Glass in Weston, West Virginia and Corning, New York to hear about the

chemistry behind glassmaking, and they'll even experience and have lessons on the energy produced by Niagara Falls.

"Ithaca has tons of waterfalls and is near the Fingerlakes area of New York, and all that is glacier formed so the kids are excited about seeing that because in the Dynamic Planet competition they have to know all about the different ways that mountains are formed," O'Shields said. "We don't go anywhere without talking about the differences in the plant and animal life or noticing the differences in the tree lines in the mountains."

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Shaw hits on leadership at LDHS ILUNCH

By John Clayton

Editor

Connor Shaw was a dual-threat quarterback while at South Carolina, but according to coaches and teammates his leadership skills may have surpassed his ability to run and throw a football.

The former Gamecocks star and NFL signal-caller put those leadership skills on display Wednesday at Laurens District High School as a guest speaker during ILUNCH, a lunch period that gives students choices as to where and how to spend their lunch periods. Shaw, out of football and in private business at the age of 27, spoke to students about teamwork, confidence, contentment and servant leadership.

"Let's make something clear right now," Shaw said. "Just because I am behind the podium and have the microphone does not mean that I have it all figured out."

Shaw left South Carolina as its all-time winningest quarterback with 27 and holds several other offensive records. He was undrafted by the NFL but signed with the Cleveland Browns as an undrafted free agent in 2014. He started one game for the Browns as a rookie, but injuries ended his tenure with the Browns before the 2016 season. He signed with the Chicago Bears in 2016, but a broken leg suffered in a preseason game ended his 2017 season and his NFL career.

After being successful at every level as an athlete, Shaw was suddenly faced with "Plan B." He has since entered the private business sector, but continues to speak to young people.

"We were very pleased with the message he brought because it really hit home to our kids. Connor hasn't always had it easy," said LDHS Athletic Director Tommy Spires. "He's had to fight through adversity throughout his college career, as well as his NFL career."

Spires said it was important for LDHS students to learn that Shaw earned his degree at South Carolina despite achieving stardom on the college football field.

"It was a very good point for kids to hear," he said. LDHS boys basketball coach Ryan Walker said Shaw's message about leadership transcended sports and was important for every student in attendance to hear.

"Leaders serve," Shaw said. "If you take the time to

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