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September 19, 2025

MHS students recognized for Safe Driving Film by Lutzie 43 Foundation

MARIETTA, GA – [Marietta High School](#) video and film students were awarded \$4,300 by the Lutzie 43 Foundation for their film documenting last fall's Safe Driving Summit, hosted on the MHS campus. This award recognizes the film and video students' work, capturing the powerful message and life-saving impact of the Summit. Their work will allow other schools across Georgia and beyond to experience the event and be inspired to host their own.

The student-produced film captured the energy and life-saving lessons of the Summit, which featured keynote speaker Mike Lutzenkirchen, father of the late Auburn football player Philip Lutzenkirchen.

"We are deeply impressed by how Marietta High's AV Team preserved the energy and life-saving lessons of the summit," said Mike Lutzenkirchen, Executive Director of the Lutzie 43 Foundation. "This film will empower other schools to take the next step toward hosting their own summits, expanding our reach and reinforcing the 43 Key Seconds initiative throughout communities."

Lutzenkirchen shared the moving story of his son Philip's death due to distracted, impaired, and unsafe driving. Students also engaged in hands-on breakout sessions with first responders, trauma care professionals, law enforcement, Georgia DOT officials, and trucking industry representatives.

Through immersive experiences, such as climbing into a big rig for a driver's perspective, and hearing powerful personal stories, students gained a deeper understanding of the devastating consequences of unsafe driving. Central to the summit was the Foundation's "43 Key Seconds" message: a brief pause before driving to clear your head, hands, and eyes, and click your seatbelt.

The students' work blended emotional storytelling, student engagement, and the urgency of the Foundation's mission into a visual tool that will be shared with other schools to spark similar conversations and events.

"This project was more than an assignment; it was an opportunity for our students to use their skills to serve others," said Josh Dempsey, MHS video and film teacher. "They poured their creativity into telling a story that could ultimately save lives. That's the kind of learning that stays with them long after high school."

Principal Dr. Marvin Crumbs noted the honor highlights both student talent and student responsibility. "This recognition affirms the power of student work to reach beyond our campus," said Crumbs. "When our students use their talents to serve others, they not only learn, they lead."

This is the first year the Lutzie 43 Foundation has presented this award for an outstanding student production. Marietta High School shares this inaugural honor with Alpharetta High School.

About Marietta City Schools

Marietta City Schools (MCS) is a public charter school district serving more than 8,900 students across 12 schools. Guided by the vision that all students learn to their fullest potential, and the mission to prepare each student to maximize career, college, and life opportunities, MCS combines rich tradition with bold innovation. The district offers nationally recognized programs, strong community partnerships, and a commitment to ensuring that every student has the tools to succeed.

About the Lutzie 43 Foundation

The Lutzie 43 Foundation aims to encourage and empower people to be positive ambassadors for safe driving through character development, mentorship, and real-world application. The Foundation was established in loving memory of former Auburn football player Philip Lutzenkirchen, shortly after he lost his life in a car accident in 2014.

In his memory, the Foundation's 43 Key Seconds safe driving initiative aims to create the first nationally recognized symbol for distracted, impaired, and unsafe driving awareness and prevention. The foundation's motto—"Live like Lutz, Love like Lutz, and Learn from Lutz"—reflects its desire to help others live out the many positive character attributes Philip displayed while learning from the circumstances that led to his death.

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