STUDENT-ATHLETES IN BCS STAND OUT

If you look at the 2020 list of All-State football players in Alabama, you’ll see names of several student-athletes from Birmingham City Schools. When the top honors are given for basketball and other winter sports later this season, once again some BCS student-athletes will be among the top, said BCS Athletics Director Henry Pope.

In Class 6A, offensive lineman JonDarius Morgan of Huffman High School made First Team on the 2020 All-State roster. Defensive back Demariay Bimbo of Huffman and defensive lineman Kason Boston of Jackson-Olin High School made the Second Team. Makhi Hughes, a Huffman running back, received honorable mention.

In Class 5A, Ramsay IB High School linebacker Jeremiah Williams made the First Team All-State, while Parker High School defensive lineman Demarcus Smith made Second team.

Kamren Ivry, a Ramsay quarterback and Camron Buchannon, a Parker High wide receiver, received honorable mention.

In addition to the All-State honors, Morgan is one of three finalists for the Class 6A Lineman of the Year Award, and Williams is a finalist for the Class 5A Lineman of the Year Award.

“Many of our student-athletes are having a remarkable year,” Pope said. “Students are realizing that they are doing more than just playing sports for them. They represent the school, their families and the school district.”

This year has been different than years in the past. At Parker High School, Thundering Herd football coach Frank Warren said players bought in to the intense program of academics, training and safety.

(See Student-Athletes on Page 4)
We’ve started the second half of our academic year. Traditionally, that means a few things. Our seniors are anticipating their next moves, and our academic leaders are preparing for the next school year.

Seniors – please know that we are proud of you. Most of you have remained focused during this time of great changes. Our educators have worked diligently to prepare you for the next level – college, careers or the military.

For those who are going to college, it is imperative that you go online right away and complete your FASFA application. This helps open the door for financial aid, including grants and scholarships. I also encourage you to apply for the Birmingham Promise. This program helps relieve the burden of higher education costs when you attend a public institution of higher education in Alabama.

For more information on both programs, visit our district website. As we look to the next school year, again we know, the landscape may be different.

The availability of the vaccines is expected to increase, and we look forward to the impact that will have on our school district. Individuals who work in education are included in the 1B phase for vaccine distribution. It is my hope that it will be available for us in the coming weeks.

Our nursing and public health team took a survey of Birmingham City Schools employees, and so far, about 70 percent have indicated they would like to be vaccinated.

Please go online and register with the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency or other vaccine providers so that you will be on the list for notification when the vaccine is available for you.

With the expected improvement in health and public safety, we are planning an aggressive academic calendar to help eliminate the learning loss that has occurred as a result of COVID-19.

This has been a challenging time for our BCS families. We have made electronic devices and the internet available for remote teaching and learning, but gaps in achievement are part of our reality right now. We must address this strategically.

Over the next two weeks, you’ll learn more about our proposed calendar. We will post information online, and BCS families, faculty and staff will have an opportunity to give feedback.

I can’t stress enough, the urgency in addressing gaps in learning. We will not wait to develop a plan of action, because the future of our scholars depends on our ability to motivate and equip them for their highest potential. We are – BCS STRONG.

Dr. Mark Sullivan

JANUARY 2021
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Superintendent Speaks

Board Meeting – Feb. 9, March 9
Work Session – Feb. 23, March 23
President’s Day – Feb. 15
Spring Break – March 29- April 2
AVONDALE, TUGGLE PRINCIPALS RECEIVE INNOVATIVE EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Avondale Principal Robert David Seale and Tuggle Elementary School Principal Dr. Ann Marie Jemison on their schools being selected for Innovative Education Fellowships.

The IEF is a six-month program to support ambitious, entrepreneurial, high-potential school leaders in Birmingham in partnership with the 4.0 Schools in New Orleans, Louisiana. Participants may be current or aspiring school leaders that want to innovate within existing Birmingham schools or aspiring charter school founders.

As part of the 4.0 Essentials curriculum, fellows will receive coaching, attend design camp in New Orleans, and facilitate a mini-school pilot. Additionally, each fellow will be asked to recruit 5 individuals representing a wide variety of constituents from their school community - including alumni, community members, funders, and families - to participate in an 8-week course of study facilitated by Ed that will cover a variety of topics related to K-12 education.

“Inspired describes my first reaction when I heard that Mr. Seale and Dr. Jemison had been selected for the prestigious Innovative Education Fellowship,” said Dr. Gwendolyn Tilghman, Instructional Superintendent, Network 1. “The Birmingham City School District students and teachers will benefit from the leadership, coaching, and collaboration of other aspiring leaders. Their commitment to innovation and change is commendable.”

At the end of the program, each team will develop a plan for innovating within their school, including a shared vision, goal, and action steps. The Innovative Ed program will be conducted entirely over Zoom for the 2021 cycle.

Seale has been with BCS for 2 ½ years and principal at Avondale for a year. Jemison is an 18-year BCS educator and has been at Tuggle for 6 years.

GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver Application for Class of 2021

To be eligible to receive the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Waiver, all applicants must read the items below and acknowledge each item has been completed before submitting application.

• Admission Application for the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) college you plan to attend.
• Completed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the federal school code for the ACCS college you plan to attend.
• Understand that the waiver is a last-dollar, tuition and fees only waiver. This means the dollar amount will be determined once all other financial resources have been exhausted. This includes all Federal/State Grants, institutional waivers, outside waivers, and any other gift aid.

Students must complete the above items and understand that incomplete waiver applications will not be reviewed for eligibility.

Click Here to Register
First Class Pre-K Registration Open Online

Online Pre-Registration is open January 15 – March 24, 2021 to all students who will be 4-years-old on or by September 1, 2021.

Go online to https://ALPREK.ASAPCONNECTED.COM to complete the Pre-Registration Form and submit birth certificate and proof of residence.

Acceptance is strictly through random drawing to be held on March 29 – April 2. Parent or guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Notices will be emailed beginning April 16.

For more information, visit www.children.alabama.gov and see Pre-Registration Info under First Class Pre-K.

If you need any assistance, please contact the Early Learning Department (205) 231 - 9842 | 205-231-9836 | 205-231-9841

Open to all children that are four years of age on or before September 1, 2021 who are residents of the Birmingham City School System

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. CHILD’S original birth certificate, social security card, and immunization records.
2. PARENT’S copy of a lease or mortgage, current utility bill, and identification (driver’s license or passport)

• No Registration Fee
• No child will be denied participation on the basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin, or disability.

Student-Athletes Stand Out

(Continued from Page 1)

“When the players finished their classes, often they were with us the entire day,” Warren said. “We had study halls, they practiced, and we were like family.” Birmingham City Schools student-athletes also are making their mark on the hardwood. Carver Rams girls point-guard Randrea Wright recently was presented her 2,000-point ball. She plans to play Division 1 basketball at the University of Central Arkansas.

Ramsay’s Keshawn Murphy is expected to be listed as an All-State player at the end of the season. He has committed to play at Mississippi State University.

Jarvis Wilson coaches the girls’ basketball team at Carver. He said team members want to win, and they don’t mind working to achieve their goal.

“This is our fifth year of being ranked in the top 10,” said Wilson, who has led the team for seven years. “It’s been tough, but we have a family-oriented culture in our program.”

Pope said he looks forward to the success of BCS student-athletes. “Currently, we have about two players in the NBA and eight or nine in the NFL,” he said. “Our student-athletes often go on and get their college degrees and become business people, educators, you name it.

“We celebrate and support student-athletes in Birmingham City Schools, and that makes a difference.”
Oxmoor Valley Elementary Targets Reading With Special Guests

Tuesday evenings are terrific for scholars at Oxmoor Valley Elementary School. Each week special guests and faculty members spend time starting at 6 p.m. reading to students on Facebook Live.

School Principal Melvin Love said this initiative aims to encourage our scholars to read and helps the school connect with families outside of the regular school day. “We want our scholars and their friends and family members aware of the importance of reading in student success,” Love said. “It’s imperative that our scholars practice reading every day.”

Guest readers have included the principal, teachers, staff members, community leaders and some national personalities. Recently, the guest reader was Angela Robinson, an actress from the popular Tyler Perry series “The Haves and the Have Nots.” She entertained the scholars reading the book, *The ABCs of Black History*. Robinson brought the book to life using her gift for voice animation.

Other special guests have included comedian and actor Roy Wood, Jefferson County District Attorney Danny Carr, Jefferson County Cutoff District Attorney Lynneice Washington, actor Stanley Mathis, and author Verna Shamblee.

Terrific Tuesdays was developed by the Oxmoor Valley Elementary Literacy Team. The program coordinators are Lakeshia Moody, the ARI Reading Specialist, and Tamra Ishman, the school’s librarian. Daphne Smiley, the technology coordinator also collaborates with this initiative.
WEST END ACADEMY HOSTS VIRTUAL SPELLING BEE

West End Academy recently held its first virtual spelling bee. To get the scholars prepared, Spelling Bee Coordinator and Fourth-grade teacher, Madison Fisher, conducted spelling bee practice every day via Zoom.

On Friday, January 15th, students were invited to the school with their “mask on” of course, and placed in individual classrooms with an iPad already prepared. Each student logged onto Zoom via CLEVER to showcase their talent!

Dr. Stephanie Turner, BCS PBIS Project Director, served as the pronouncer. To witness the live event, faculty, parents, and students were invited to watch via Zoom. Following the competition, Principal Dr. Chandra Watkins, presented the scholars with treat bags, certificates, and a hot lunch prepared by the CNP staff.

Congratulations to fourth-grader Karmen Scott. She will represent West End Academy in the District Spelling Bee.

Birmingham City Schools, UAB Target Student Fitness

Students in Birmingham City Schools can enjoy structured exercise virtually after school and earn rewards through YES! We Can Play. The after-school sports program for Birmingham City Schools’ middle school students (6th-8th grade) is led by coaches in collaboration with The University of Alabama at Birmingham. The program is delivered virtually every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

YES! We Can Play provides a variety of sports for students to choose to play. Coaches teach the players valuable sports readiness concepts to prepare for competitive team sports. Players will receive Fitbits to track their physical activity and a YES! Physical Activity backpack filled with sports equipment.

Sixth-grade is a time when we lose athletes because when they’re looking for things to do, there are no sports offered” said Henry Pope, Birmingham City Schools Athletics Director. “We needed a program to address the gap between elementary school and middle school, which is why we collaborated with UAB for YES! We Can PLAY.”

For more information or to sign up for the program, click here.
Ramsay High Scores Amazon Program

Career Academy Coordinator
Ja’net Sharpe
recently announced that Ramsay IB High School has been accepted into a sponsorship program with Amazon. The program will focus on a partnership with Edhesive for the school’s computer science program.

“We will launch the program this fall,” Sharpe said. “It was created to help students get a jumpstart on computer science. It also will provide training for teachers.”

The program’s initiative seeks to expand access to high caliber preparatory courses, curricular resources and programs for schools and districts to help prepare and propel high school students forward in their pursuit of computer science education.

Sharpe said there will be an introductory class for 10th-graders and an AP class for juniors. “They have provided everything we need to run the program and it will be all virtual,” she said. “We already have the curriculum and lesson plans. The system will grade the students’ assignments and our teacher will upload the grades.”

“It’s going to be a great program,” said Sharpe, who completed the application and interview process for Ramsay High.

South Hampton Students Honored for Infographics

Tambra Clark, South Hampton K-8 School’s Library Media Specialist, was featured in the Business Alabama online magazine via Ed Farm for her students’ outstanding infographics.

Read the Article Here

ED TECH HELP DESK

iPad • Dell/Chromebook • Zoom • Clever • Schoology Support

NEW HOURS

ED TECH SUPPORT TEAM | MONDAY - FRIDAY | 7:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M
Call In: 267-831-0333 and use Meeting Code: 86701549980#
or Sub Hub Zoom Link: https://bhmk12.zoom.us/j/86701549980

BIRMINGHAM PROMISE

ARE YOU:

- Enrolled in a Birmingham City High School as of Sept. 30, 2020?
- On track to graduate from a BCS High School in the 2020-2021 school year?
- Planning to start college courses the fall semester after graduation?

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: GETTING STARTED.

- List colleges and universities of interest
- FAFSA
- Student Aid Report
- Birmingham Promise Application

The Birmingham Promise is about providing equal opportunities for all Birmingham City Schools students. College-bound high school seniors, please take some time to complete the checklist.

For more info, click here.