Ed Farm Launches 'Spaces' Initiative at South Hampton

Students at South Hampton K-8 School are learning in a new innovative space equipped with the latest technology, thanks to a partnership with Ed Farm and Birmingham City Schools. The South Hampton Innovation Library is the first learning space designed by Ed Farm through its Ed Farm “Spaces” initiative.

Spaces furthers Ed Farm’s vision to create an inventive world where all people have access to tools they need to fill or create jobs of the future and provides cutting-edge STEM opportunities for Birmingham students and teachers.

Waymond Jackson, president of Ed Farm, calls it an innovation collision.

“Where students learn matters and our goal is to create spaces – where traditionally underserved students learn – that inspire creativity, imagination, and collaboration,” said Jackson, a graduate of Ramsay High School. “Modern technology and industry require modern teaching and learning. The South Hampton Innovation Library is the first of several learning spaces that will be designed by Ed Farm and use technology and dedicated Ed Farm programming to prepare students and teachers for the future of work. Ultimately, these spaces will help remove barriers to technology and training that often prevent traditionally marginalized populations from successfully entering the innovation economy and can be replicated throughout Birmingham and the state of Alabama.”
The 2022 Alabama Legislative session recently ended, and I am pleased to say that the legislature passed several laws that will positively impact on our district and public schools throughout the state.

There's been lots of discussion about the Literacy Act, and the requirement that third-graders read on grade-level or possibly be retained.

This provision was scheduled to take effect this year. Now, that portion of the literacy act has been delayed for two years.

The Legislature also passed the Alabama Numeracy Act to help support improvement in student achievement in math.

Parts of the new law took effect immediately after the governor signed it earlier this month.

It requires that students in grades K-5 get at least 60 minutes of math instruction each day. Another requirement in the law provides state-funded math coaches for schools.

This will start in the 2023-24 school year.

The Legislature also put in place much-needed funds to increase pay for our educators. This is an important first step. For years now, recruiting and retaining teachers has been a challenge. One of the major factors has been the pay.

We know that teachers enter the profession because of their passion for nurturing the next generation of learners and leaders. Pay is very important, but in the past, state pay for teacher salaries has not matched the level of contribution that our educators invest into our scholars.

The State’s changes will increase pay and reward veteran teachers who remain in public education for years to come.

Our main business in Birmingham City Schools is teaching and learning. We depend on our educators to make that happen everyday. Many of them will be working throughout the summer to continue teaching and inspiring our scholars and also preparing for the next school year.

Summer Learning Programs

We will soon share with our students and parents the robust offerings that will be available for learning this summer.

We want all scholars to be prepared to take advantage of the benefits of all BCS has to offer.

In Birmingham City Schools you have choices. Enrollment is open for our academies, offered at all seven high schools. Also this year, we are giving more students an opportunity to enroll in Early College at Woodlawn and we are also launching our new virtual school.

Our student population is diverse. It’s imperative that we continue offering a variety of choices to provide clear paths to success and ensure that all scholars are college and career ready when they graduate Birmingham City Schools.

- Dr. Mark Sullivan

DistriCt Dates

• BBOE Board Meeting: May 10
• BBOE Work Session: May 24
• Memorial Day: May 30
• Graduation Rehearsals: May 31 - June 1
• Graduation Schedule: June 2 - 3
Registration, Career Academies Open

The Birmingham City Schools Virtual School utilizes a flexible learning model where students can take all the coursework that is required using an online platform. Students accepted into the program will be provided with a BCS-owned electronic device along with instructions on how to navigate an online learning environment.

High School students will have the ability to choose from a variety of elective classes, including foreign languages.

Students will be required to take standardized tests in person at a designated BCS building. The application for the Virtual School is supplemental and must be completed for those interested in participating in the virtual program. The application for the Virtual School is supplemental and must be completed for those interested in participating in the virtual program.

For more information, scan the QR code or click here or contact Interim Virtual Program Coordinator, Jessica Wedgeworth at 205-231-9500 or 205-231-7000 or email: jwedgeworth@bhm.k12.al.us or Jerelle Hendon 205-231-2280 or jendon@bhm.k12.al.us
WOODLAWN ACADEMY BEST OF THE BEST

Woodlawn High School’s Academy of Business and Finance is now home to the best of the best in the NAF network, which compromises more than 600 academies across the United States.

NAF is a national network of education, business and community leaders who work together to ensure high school students are college, career and future ready.

“This recognition is a testament to all those who help make our academy a success,” said Tamisha Jackson, Academy Coordinator. “Without our students, teachers, business and community partners, we couldn’t achieve this level of success.”

There are currently only two esteemed Academies in the state of Alabama, and both are within Birmingham City Schools. Wenonah’s Academy of Hospitality and Tourism is the other program known for its success.

“This is quite an accomplishment and testament to our leadership team, teachers, counselors, advisory board members and students.”

Woodlawn’s AOBF has 165 students in grades 10-12. These students have experienced work base learning opportunities, networked with industry professionals, and performed internships while receiving life-learning skills that have impacted and shaped them socially, intellectually, and professionally. “As a result of this program, they are fundamentally ready to make an impact on our global society,” Jackson said.

The graduates of this program go on to college to include trade schools, two-year and four-year programs, direct entrance into the workforce, and/or both. Scholars in this program have included special need students to valedictorians, Gates Scholarship recipients as well as a Rhodes Scholar finalist.

Woodlawn’s “Model Quality” ranking was determined by an assessment, which measures strengths and challenges in implementing NAF’s results driven educational design. Virtual visits also were conducted this year to verify that the academy met fidelity to an educational design that prepares students for college and career success.

During the 2021-22 school year, more than 120,000 students attended 618 NAF academies across 35 states, plus DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. In 2021, NAF academies reported 99 percent of seniors graduated with 87 percent of graduates planning to go to college.

For more information, visit: http://naf.org/.

EDUCATORS, BOARD MEMBER HONORED FOR SERVICE

Two BCS educators and a member of the Birmingham Board of Education were honored on Sunday March 27, by Community First Birmingham and the Men of our Communities during the 7th Annual Soul Food Sunday event.

Each year, the event is held during Women’s History Month to celebrate Sheroes in the community.

Community First selected KaRita Smith Sullen of Oxmoor Valley Elementary School as its 2022 Teacher of Year. Dr. Carolyn Russell-Walker was named the organization’s Principal of the Year, and District 6 Board member Leticia Watkins was honored for her work and dedication to children.

Birmingham Superintendent Dr. Sullivan and Board President Jason Meadows, along with principals Dr. Melvin Love of Oxmoor Valley and Dr. Willie Goldsmith of Wenonah High school assisted in serving food to the participants and honorees.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan (left) celebrates Women's History Month with BBOE board members Walter Wilson, Leticia Watkins, and civic activist Antwon Womack.
FAFSA Required For Graduation

Each high school is hosting FAFSA Events to help students and parents complete the FAFSA and the Birmingham Promise Scholarship Application. You may sign up to attend a face-to-face event at your child’s high school or a virtual 1:1 appointment. Click the flyer for more information.

Important Dates

- 5/1 FAFSA District Drawing - $100 Gift Card

APRIL 2022 RECOGNITIONS

**Left:** Congratulations to Woodlawn High's Bruce W. Henderson, Jr. who will receive his Master of Arts in Music on May 6 from Jacksonville State University. He also has been accepted as a Conducting Fellowship with Varna International Music Academy and The Grand Stand Music Festival: Muzika.

Henderson will study with Maestro Gregory Buchalter of the Metropolitan Opera in studying Rossini’s "Stabat Mater" and conducting Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate" with the Academy Chorus and Orchestra. The fellowship will be July 2-14 at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina.

**Right:** Congratulations to Carver High's Head Boys Soccer Coach Tenell Marshall on his 100 Career Wins at Carver High School! Coach Marshall’s team has won 13 in a row this season and is 14-1 overall!

**Left:** Jenikka Oglesby, BCS Human Resources Officer, Theresa Paris-Hundley, Competition Coordinator, and Dr. Jermaine Dawson, Chief Academic Officer, were presenters at The 2022 Council of the Great City Schools CFO/CHRO Meeting (The Nation’s Voice for Urban Education) in Tampa, Florida.
2022 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Individual Teachers of the Year

Alganese Gatson – Hemphill
LaKeisha Jones – Avondale
Tarithia Bracy – Carver High
Jordan Hale – Wenonah High
Racheke Chandler – Inglewood
Chanelle Jackson – Oliver
Minnie Cook – Martha Gaskins
Crystal Pritchett – South Hampton
Alkie Johnson – Wylam
Jacynthia J. Meadows – Brown
Maria Lopez – Tuggle
Jarquise Leonard – Green Acres
Bethany Redaux – Huffman Middle
Alexis Lillie – Ramsay High
William Dobbs – Oxmoor Valley
Ryan Riley – Huffman Academy
Maria DelCarmen Lopez – Dupuy
Denise Alfred – Minor
Crystal Drake – Glen Iris
Glennita Bell – W. J. Christian
Chanel Douglas – Woodlawn
Dale Simmons – Bush Hills
Latoya Banks McCall – Jones Valley
Jamicka Reed – W. J. Christian
Brandy McGuire – Jackson-Olin High
Germara Hunter Goodwin – Putman
Lee Anthia Ford – Huffman High
Timothy Allison – Sun Valley
Kenyaki Sanders – Central Park
Jennifer Stewart – Princeton
Olivia King – Arrington
Kenisha Davis – Ossie Ware
Diamond Ford – Phillips Academy
Brandy Crutcher – Robinson
Kristen Fluker – Hudson K-8
Corine Woodard – Smith Middle
Jessica Harbinson – Barrett
Patrice Cole – EPIC
Archie Wilson – Hayes K-8
Erskine Long – Norwood
LaWanda Minor – West End Academy
Celia Rankin – Wilkerson Middle
Monique Tait – Hudson K-8

Mr. Reggie White

Ms. Monquelle Shamburger

2022 Teachers of the Year

White and Shamburger are both among 16 finalists in the State Teacher of the Year Contest.
Student Accolades

Donte Wellington

Wenonah High School scholar Donte Wellington worked over the recent Spring Break to gain first-hand experience at the Academy of Craft Training program.

Faith Poellnitz

Faith Poellnitz, April’s WBRC Rising Star, is a senior at Jackson-Olin High School, with a 3.77 GPA. She also is a member of the National Honor Society, the volleyball team, is the head varsity cheerleader, and a youth cheer coach.

Michael Broadnax

Also a student of the Academy of Craft Training program, Ramsay senior Michael Broadnax received the opportunity to work with Remmert Construction at Vanderbilt University over Spring Break.

Maecy Shepard (left) and Renee Greene (right)

Representing Ramsay High, these two scholars are the winners of the The World Games TWG 2022 High School Art Contest.

Shynia Davison

Ossie Ware Mitchell Middle School’s Shynia Davison, eighth-grade scholar, won first place in the Fair Housing Month poster contest. She will receive a $1,000 prize!

Makayla Williams

Makayla Williams, an 11th-grader at Carver High School won third-place and received $150 cash for her artistic efforts in the Green New Deal Art Contest.
Graduating seniors in Birmingham City Schools didn’t have to wait for opportunities to apply for good jobs. The nationally recognized Woodlawn High School Academy of Business and Finance brought employers from several job sectors to the students on Friday, April 8.

More than 20 companies were on hand, many offering jobs after graduation. Some hiring companies included: Birmingham Parks & Recreation, trade and construction firms, as well as entities such as the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department and Birmingham Police Department, Alabama.

All Woodlawn High School students, as well as students from several other BCS high schools, were able to speak with job recruiters on employment opportunities.

Woodlawn High School scholars and other BCS students chat with employment representatives at the school’s career fair.
Ramsay and Altamont Students Enjoy Heritage Panel Exchange

Students at Ramsay High School and The Altamont Schools took their Heritage Panel programs to another level in April with an intensive two-day exchange that included both campus.

Panelists and faculty from both schools traveled to the other for team-building, fun, and frank discussions about stereotypes, inequity, and other issues students face.

As a result, Ramsay and Altamont will collaborate on more projects in the future.

The Heritage Panel Program is a fun, yet intensive, two-day training for area middle and high schools during which a diverse group of 25 to 30 students and 2-5 teachers or administrators make a commitment to discouraging bullying, harassment, and discrimination at their school.

Over the course of the training, teachers and students discuss important, but often ignored, issues that affect their school experience, such as cliques, race, gender, cultural backgrounds, and exclusion. Deep discussion, fun games, and team-building exercises bring the group closer.

Following the training, Heritage Panelists shared what they learned through presentations given to their classmates. They also shared their personal experiences.
Thirty Birmingham City Schools scholars from five high schools were celebrated recently for completing an extensive Student Ambassador Program with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta’s Birmingham Office.

The students, all juniors, have spent the 2021-22 scholar year in virtual sessions designed to introduce them to topics such as financial literacy, economics, business and workforce development while also engaging with business and community leaders. They also learned valuable lessons to guide them through life, such as “if you want good credit, pay your bills on time,” one student said.

Brian Hamilton, an alumnus of A.H. Parker High School, CEO of Trillion Communications, and a member of the fed branch’s Board of Directors was guest speaker for the event. He challenged the students to continue making a difference in their communities and to use their experience from the ambassadors’ program for future growth.

The 2021-22 ambassadors are:

**A. H. Parker High School**
- Zakya Taylor
- J’Layah Shepherd
- Jalicia Buffett
- Inde’An Lee
- Zamia Robinson

**G.W. Carver High School**
- Dayely Heredia
- Olivia Paige-Hagans
- Ashley Pender

**Huffman High School**
- LaKiya Bimbo
- Sydnie Gibson
- Tanyah Lockhart
- Marley Tarver
- Kamryn Wilson

**Ramsay IB High School**
- Kimora Bent
- Avaya Clayton
- Shatoria Giles
- Nia Hall
- Olivia Harrington
- Tikeria Jones
- Archie Lucy
- Corsondra Priget
- LaPrea Smith
- Zena Terry
- Timothy Waldrop II

**Woodlawn High School**
- Arionna Boswell
- Steven Crenshaw
- Ja’Quan Horton
- Kenda Jackson
- Kourtney Lundy
- Cerrya Anthony Williams
Employee Highlight: Cherrye Parker, Federal Programs Director

Disclaimer: Part of this story was included in the City of Birmingham’s ‘StrongHer’ Series for Women’s History Month.

Growing up in Birmingham, Cherrye Fincher Parker was surrounded by educators and hardworking people, who showed her the importance of helping young people.

Her grandmother, Dr. Gertrude Sanders; her mother, Lillie M.H. Fincher; and her sister, Cassandra Fincher Fells, all worked as educators for Birmingham City Schools.

This year, Parker marks her 40th with BCS, where she started out as a first-grade teacher at Central Park Elementary and went on to work in other areas before becoming the district director of Federal Programs in 2014. “I like making a difference in the lives of children, families and communities,” Parker said.

Parker’s love for education runs as deep as her love for Birmingham. Her great-grandparents moved from Lincoln, Ala. to Birmingham more than 100 years ago, impressed by the promise and potential of the Magic City.

Their belief in Birmingham has always inspired Parker, who encourages others to never stop dreaming.

“My grandmother once said that your life may be the only Bible that someone else reads. So, what that means is I have to walk the walk, talk the talk, and not be a judge but be an agent of change.

“I chose a career in education because of my mother and grandmother’s love for learning, teaching and working for Birmingham City Schools; making me a third-generation educator in the district.

“My grandmother started her career at Lane School and advanced on to work as a counselor at Carver and lastly at Lawson State Community College. My mother started her career in BCS at Western Olin High School, now Jackson-Olin and advanced to one of the teachers selected to teach at Carol W. Hayes High School when it opened, named after the last Director of Negro Schools in Birmingham, and later moved on to become the Social Studies Program Specialist and Partners in Education Coordinator for BCS.

“My mother severed the district for 40 years before retirement and to my listening ear she enjoyed every minute of it. Our household lived and breathed education and the encouragement to be life-long learners,” Parker said.

“As I approach the end of my 40-year career with BCS, I am thankful for the opportunities and people I have encountered,” Parker said.

“I entered BCS 40 years ago, as a first-grade teacher at Central Park Elementary School, under the leadership of Dr. Joan Buckley, and through the years have served the district in various positions.

Now as I approach retirement as the Director of Federal Programs, I can honestly say these 40 years have been an indescribable journey that I know was all designed by God.”
BCS High School Coaches Talk Football

For years, Birmingham has called itself the Football Capital of the South, and its capitol building was Legion Field.

Now, as the United States Football League (USFL) kicks off with all eight of its teams playing downtown at Protective Stadium, the Magic City is set for a promotion – to Football Capital of America.

The first game of the reborn USFL was played Saturday, April 16, pitting the Birmingham Stallions against the New Jersey Generals at Protective Stadium on FOX and NBC.

Click here to read more.

NFL Player, Wenonah Alum Shines Off the Field

Former Alabama All-American Quinnen “Q” Williams gave Birmingham police detectives a brief respite from murder and mayhem Wednesday, April 13 by treating them to lunch.

The New York Jets defensive tackle, whose wife Maranda is the daughter of a veteran Birmingham homicide Det. Jonathan Ross, teamed up with Pizza Hut through his Quinnen Williams Foundation to show his gratitude for all they do in his hometown.

Click here to read the full story.
Minor Elementary Students Featured in Video

Students at Minor Elementary School will be featured in a video commemorating the annual Heal Day Celebration at 10 a.m. on May 3, on Alabama Public Television.

Minor Elementary was one of two schools in Alabama selected for the video, which will include NFL Baltimore Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey.

Heal Inc. Founder and CEO Christy Swaid said Minor was selected because of its commitment to healthy behaviors that are the focus of the program designed by Heal United.

HEAL was founded in 2002 to help reverse the epidemic of obesity and related preventable, chronic diseases in Alabama, giving children and families better quality of life and a brighter future.

HEAL Day will provide an action-packed ten-minute program designed to help children and adults embrace healthy behaviors. The event will feature Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and American Idol superstar Taylor Hicks, who together will launch the latest HEAL book and song, “123s the HEAL Way.”

Humphrey also will be presented with the 2022 HEAL HERO Award for his help in promoting an inspiring a healthy lifestyle.

Minor Elementary scholars participate in HEAL Day to promote a healthy lifestyle.

HEAL improves children’s health and multigenerational health culture through evidence-based fitness, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle curricula implemented in schools. Heal currently serves 175 Alabama schools across 34 counties, impacting approximately 37,000 K-12th-grade students.
Ed Farm

Continued From Page One

"I am excited about this latest development in our BCS/Ed Farm partnership," said Birmingham Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan. "I know that this future-focused learning environment will make a significant difference in the continued academic achievement of our scholars."

The goal of the new Ed Farm Spaces is for teachers and students, within the school, to experience and expose themselves to the future of learning. With an emphasis on technology-based learning that includes coding, design, collaboration, and cultivating change, these spaces are designed to incorporate Ed Farm curriculum and hands-on guidance from Ed Farm staff.

The South Hampton Innovation Library includes learning labs throughout the space that place a focus on making, tinkering, engineering, and design thinking. Learners will be immersed in activities that use top-of-the-line technologies such as the MakerBot 3D printer, Sphero robot kits, littleBits STEM kits, Osmo coding kits, ThinkLive! DJing Turntable, and AR/VR headsets to think more critically about their learning and develop new ways of problem solving. In addition, the space leverages innovative technologies from Apple, including MacBook, Apple TV, iPad and Apple Pencil, and more to bring the learning experience to life.

"The types of skills that will lead our students to become linchpins in the innovation economy require more than traditional learning spaces can facilitate. Ed Farm Spaces creates the flexibility, the inspiration, and the equipment necessary to activate our students for the future," said Daniel Whitt, Learning Innovations Director, Ed Farm.

By reimagining and creating learning spaces that inspire and provide enhanced future-focused teaching and learning, all students will be engaged and energized to learn, and be prepared for what’s next. Likewise, Ed Farm Spaces is aligned with the Ed Farm Student and Teacher Fellows programs that equip both students and teachers with the tools needed to fully take advantage of the technology within the space.

Ed Farm is a tech and education startup nonprofit headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. It launched in February 2020 with founding support from Apple and Alabama Power Company.

Click here to view the Innovation Spaces Video.

BCS scholars explore their new space at South Hampton's Library of Innovation.

BCS scholars, educators and District 2 School Board Member Neonta Williams explore devices at South Hampton's Library of Innovation.
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Apply for the 3G Chemical Solutions Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Application due: May 6, 2022

Financial Assistance for Future Home Building Industry Professionals

The Doris Pearl Memorial Scholarship

HBCU Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: May 4th

About Us:
The Doris Pearl Memorial Scholarship offers a one-time $5000 boob towards attending a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) for students with demonstrated academic achievement, commitment to serving others in school, home, or community, or interest in joining the skilled trades, and fostering diverse communities. To receive this award, students must provide proof of enrollment in an HBCU for the fall semester.

Scholarship Checklist:
- Submit a free FAFSA and free/low-income (FLL) application
- Provide a minimum of 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- Complete an application
- Include two letters of recommendation from a teacher or mentor

Contact us for an application:
pearlmemorialfoundation@gmail.com

¡HICA! $1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline April 30, 2022 at 5PM

www.hicaalabama.org/en/scholarship

For questions or information E-mail: scholarships@hicaalabama.org

¡HICA! $1,500 BECA ESCOLAR

Deadline April 30, 2022 at 5PM

www.hicaalabama.org/en/scholarship

Para preguntar o información E-mail: scholarships@hicaalabama.org

¡No olvides un correo electrónico de Gmail para poder aplicar!
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**IMMIGRANTS RISING SCHOLARSHIPS**

Immigrant Rising’s List of Undergraduate Scholarships contains scholarships for undergraduate studies that don’t require proof of citizenship or legal permanent residency. This up-to-date list, organized by deadline date, contains scholarships at the local (Bay Area), state and national level. To see a list of scholarships, [click here.](#)

**NPHC SCHOLARSHIP: BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER: DEADLINE 5/2/2022**

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (Birmingham Chapter) is now accepting applications for NPHC Scholarship Awards for 2021-2022. $500 scholarship for University/College. For more information, contact NPHCBirmingham@gmail.com.

**UNCF SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS, INTERNSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS!**

UNCF manages various scholarship programs and each program has its own eligibility criteria, open/close dates and required documentation. To apply for a UNCF scholarship, you must apply through the on-line application process. To see a list of scholarships, [click here.](#)

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**CLASS OF 2022 WE SALUTE YOU-- CONGRATULATIONS!**

Birmingham CrossPlex/Bill Harris Arena
2307 Bessemer Road, Birmingham, AL 35208

**Rehearsal Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, May 31, 2022</th>
<th>Wednesday, June 1, 2022</th>
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<td>Ramsay 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Jackson-Olin 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Parker 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
<td>Carver 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wenonah 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Woodlawn 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Huffman 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
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**Graduation Schedule**

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<th>Thursday, June 2, 2022</th>
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<td>Wenonah 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Woodlawn 4 p.m.</td>
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<td>Huffman 7 p.m.</td>
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**National Association of Hooper City Alumni Scholarship**

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**Nikki Seaborn**
Editor

**Rachel Waller**
Graphic Designer

**Sherrel Wheeler Stewart**
Executive Director, Strategy and Communications

**Dr. Mark Sullivan**
Superintendent

*The BCS Report will be distributed monthly. Submit story ideas to Nikki Seaborn (cseaborn@bhm.k12.al.us) by the 10th day of each month.*