CONGRATS BCS
CLASS OF 2021
Superintendent Speaks

For more than a year now we’ve been making changes because of COVID-19. A recent move by the Food and Drug Administration could help us return to some sense of normalcy next school year.

The agency cleared the way for children 12 and older to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This is a game changer because we all know adolescents and teenagers are social and enjoying hanging out with their friends and family.

We will begin in June making vaccines available at some of our schools. I encourage our students, faculty and staff to consider getting vaccinated. We want our scholars, our employees and the community to be safe and healthy. Vaccinations help us reach that goal.

I again want to thank some key employees. Our educators, child nutrition staff, transportation, maintenance and operations staff have worked together as a team. That’s what keeps us BCS Strong.

Our community partnerships also have made a difference. Agencies, such as the A.G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA of Greater Birmingham, found unique ways to help our scholars throughout virtual learning.

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church converted some of its Sunday School space into learning stations so virtual scholars could have a safe place to go while their parents worked. Both Better Basics and the STAIR reading program also found ways to support our scholars.

These are just a few examples of what it takes to keep our students on track and the organizations that are willing to step up and help us do the work that matters most.

This year has brought many successes for our scholars and our educators. Several team members persevered through the pandemic to earn advanced degrees and certifications. We are so proud of each and every one of them.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Class of 2021. This class is OUTSTANDING! They have not allowed a global pandemic to stop their pursuit of excellence. These students have amassed more than $40 MILLION DOLLARS in scholarship offers. Some will be attending the best colleges and universities in the country. Others have completed academy programs that have prepared them for immediate employment. We also have students entering into the military.

Class of 2021, it is because of you and your perseverance, that we are and will remain BCS Strong! We wish you nothing but the best and CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank You,

Dr. Mark Sullivan

BCS Superintendent

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“We are all part of the larger community, so we want to create opportunities to support.”

SPIRE DONATES 6,000 REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES TO THE DISTRICT

Birmingham City Schools students will have an additional tool this spring and summer to help reduce the spread of coronavirus, thanks to Spire. The energy utility company is donating 6,000 reusable water bottles to the district.

Students at Robinson Elementary School were among the first to receive their bottles on Tuesday, May 18. The remaining bottles will be distributed by the district to other schools. “We welcome this partnership with Spire. This donation reinforces our efforts to minimize the use of water fountains,” said Birmingham School Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan.

It’s also good for the environment. Spire’s water bottle donation is part of the company’s ongoing commitment to helping communities during the pandemic.

“Spire recognized a need within the community and came up with a solution which will hopefully make parent and student daily preparation for school a little bit easier,” said Joe Hampton, president of Spire Alabama and Mississippi.

“We are all part of the larger community, so we want to create opportunities to support.”
Congratulations to Sun Valley Elementary School teacher Sabrina Wright for receiving the 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year award, and W.J. Christian K-8 School teacher Phylecia Ragland for receiving the 2021 Secondary Teacher of the Year award!

**2021 Teachers of the Year**

RUTH ADDINGTON • KINDERGARTEN, MINOR ELEMENTARY

MARLAN WILLIAM PINKINS • 4TH GRADE, NORWOOD ELEMENTARY

TERNIKOLAS M. RAMIREZ • K-5 STEM/TECHNOLOGY, OLIVER ELEMENTARY

KARITA SMITH-SULLEN • 2ND-5TH, OXMOOR VALLEY ELEMENTARY

DEBORAH GIVENS • 1ST GRADE, PRINCETON ELEMENTARY

CLAUDIA TUCKER • 4TH GRADE, ROBINSON ELEMENTARY

SABRINA WRIGHT • 5TH GRADE, SUN VALLEY ELEMENTARY

TABITHA D. PETTUS • 6TH GRADE, PUTNAM ELEMENTARY

PERNELL DELAWRENCE ALLEN • 1ST-5TH GRADE, WEST END ACADEMY

SARAH NO • 3RD GRADE, W.J. CHRISTIAN K-8

TERESA ANN HODDH • 2ND GRADE, WYLAM ELEMENTARY

JASON LANGFORD • 10TH-11TH GRADE, PARKER HIGH

BETHANY MINGO • 4TH GRADE, MARTHA GASKINS ELEMENTARY

KELLY PAYNE • 8TH GRADE, WASHINGTON K-8

KIMBERLY BENNETT-EDWARDS • 6TH GRADE, BUSH HILLS STEAM ACADEMY

LEE MASON • 9-12TH GRADE, CARVER HIGH

BATHEN A. CATHEY • 8TH GRADE, HUFFMAN MIDDLE

KORRI CUNNINGHAM • 8TH GRADE, PHILLIPS ACADEMY

MEGAN LEE PERIN • 1ST GRADE, AVONDALE ELEMENTARY

DELLA SHEEHAN • SPECIAL ED./TECHNOLOGY, BARRET ELEMENTARY

LATUNYIA S. HERRON • 5TH GRADE, WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

JESSICA HOLLIE • TECHNOLOGY, TUGGLE ELEMENTARY

KIRA PEIRCE • 5TH GRADE, CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY

ADREINNE PERRY • 4TH/5TH GRADE, BROWN ELEMENTARY

RUBIE MOORE • LIBRARIAN, E.P.I.C. ELEMENTARY

SHARON K. SMITH • K-5 P.E., GLEN IRIS ELEMENTARY

CADRIC MOULTON • 1ST GRADE, HEMPHILL ELEMENTARY

LAVONNE DAVISON • 4TH GRADE, HUFFMAN ACADEMY

JASMINE LANGSTON • 4TH GRADE, PHILLIPS ACADEMY

ELISSA R. O’NEAL • 8TH GRADE, WILKESON MIDDLE

ELEANOR BEAUCHAMP • 8TH GRADE, OSSIE WARE MITCHELL MIDDLE

DR. NATARCIA JOHNSON • 11TH-12TH GRADE, JACKSON-OLIN HIGH

LINDSAY CRIDER BLOODWORTH • 10TH-11TH GRADE, RAMSAY HIGH

PHYLECIA RAGLAND • 7TH GRADE, W.J. CHRISTIAN K-8

BURGESS J. JEFFRIES • 12TH GRADE, WOODLAWN HIGH
CARVER STUDENTS RECEIVE SEAL OF BILITERACY AWARD

On Thursday, May 20, Six scholars at G.W. Carver High School became the first Birmingham City Schools students to receive the Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy is awarded in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

At Carver, the seals were awarded to Lesly Diego-Padilla, Yvette Gonzalez, Ashley Leos Pintado, Raniela Ortiz Veras, Joanna Pena Rios and German Romera.

Rebecca Blumenfeld, a Spanish teacher at Carver, has been working for several years to establish the Seal of Biliteracy program at Carver. At the ceremony, she commended the students for their diligence in becoming bilingual with the ability to read, write and translate English and Spanish.

Nancy Blanco, Coordinator of ESL and World Languages, said this ceremony is just the beginning. She wants more students at Carver and throughout BCS to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy.

DUPUY STUDENTS TOUR MILES COLLEGE

Students at Dupuy Alternative School have their eyes on college. On Thursday, May 20, the students toured historic Miles College in Fairfield.

Dexshundra Wilson, received a $1,500 scholastic grant for committing to Miles. She plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration and eventually become a business owner. She also is set to receive a $10,000 Bridge Scholarship.

Jordan Kendrick also participated in the tour and is deciding between Miles and Alabama A&M University. At Miles, he would qualify for a full ride Presidential Scholarship. He also wants to study Business.

Continued on page 7
Graduates of Birmingham City Schools will have more resources to help fund their in-state education, thanks to an additional $8 million in contributions announced Tuesday, May 25 for Birmingham Promise.

The gifts include the largest private donation to Birmingham Promise to date -- a $5 million commitment from Vulcan Value Partners, an investment management firm in Birmingham. Additional commitments of $1 million each came from Alabama Power Company, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and Protective Life Corporation.

Birmingham Promise provides tuition assistance for Birmingham City Schools graduates who attend in-state public colleges and universities, as well as success coaches who continue to support the students during their college journey. Birmingham Promise also provides paid apprenticeships that allow high school juniors and seniors to gain work experience.

“Our goal is to clear pathways to clear pathways to opportunity for our students in Birmingham,” Rachel Harmon, the executive director of Birmingham Promise said. “Whether we’re providing career experiences or money for college, the objective is to unleash potential and open doors. We are planting the seeds of success for these students and for our city.”

Students who have benefited from the program expressed thanks to corporate donors as well as the city of Birmingham, which has committed $10 million over five years to the program.

“I want to thank Mayor Randall Woodfin, the Birmingham City Council, and the other individuals and companies that are providing these opportunities to me and other students in Birmingham City Schools,” said Justin Williams, a Parker High School graduate, Birmingham Promise scholarship recipient, and University of Alabama computer engineering student. "By investing in the Birmingham Promise, they are helping to open doors for all of us and hopefully getting us in a position one day to provide the same kind of leg-up for students in the future."

Birmingham Promise in its first year supported 396 students, 293 of whom had a financial gap related to tuition and received direct financial assistance totaling almost $1.5 million. All students received supportive services through Birmingham Promise success coaches and staff.

Among the Class of 2021, 618 students have completed the application and are on track to provide all required documentation by June 1.

Dr. Mark Sullivan, superintendent of Birmingham City Schools, thanked Birmingham Promise and its corporate donors for supporting his students.
CITY CELEBRATES 5A CHAMPIONS CARVER LADY RAMS

The G.W. Carver Lady Rams cut the nets Saturday, May 22, as the band played and the crowd cheered. The celebration was fitting for a team of seven players who brought home the school’s first 5A Girls’ AHSAA Championship.

The celebration started with a parade through North Birmingham, organized by the Carver High School National Alumni Association. The celebration originally was planned for April, but it was postponed because of inclement weather.

Several alumni and local officials came out to support and encourage the team including Superintendent Dr. Mark Sullivan, Board of Education President Daagye Hendricks, Mayor Randall Woodfin, and Council President William Parker, and Councilmember John Hilliard.

The team, led by head coach Jarvis Wilson (who recently was named 5A Coach of the Year) defeated Mae Jemison 78-69 at Fair Park Arena during the AHSAA Basketball Finals. The Lady Rams made it to the Class 6A Final Four in 2019, but fell just short.

This year, the Lady Rams were led by Central Arkansas commit and 1st Team All-State player, Randrea Wright, and Destinee Nelson, who was selected to the 3rd Team All State.

Dupuy Students Tour Miles College
(Continued from Page 5)

Dupuy Alternative School teachers bridged a path for these scholars to pursue their dreams and goals by illustrating the methods and processes to achieve higher education and attend college. The mission at Dupuy is sustaining the Birmingham Promise by ensuring that all scholars are included in the university admissions process.

Dexshundra Wilson, received a $1,500 scholastic grant for committing to Miles College.

Oliver Elementary Teacher Shantez S. Carter

Oliver Elementary Educator Shantez S. Carter has received a $700 Classroom Grant from the Alabama Power Foundation. Funds will be used for items and materials in her second-grade classroom.
Congratulations to Dr. Ashley Samuels, principal of Bush Hills S.T.E.A.M. Academy on graduating from UAB with a Ph.D. in Educational Studies in Diverse Populations.

Congratulations to Marvin Franklin Pullom of Bush Hills S.T.E.A.M. Academy on completing his Masters in Instructional Leadership from The University of West Alabama.

Congratulations to Jones Valley Middle School Librarian/Media Specialist Kacey Davenport, who received an Education Specialist degree in Library Media from The University of West Alabama on May 8.

Congratulations to Kendrick Graham, Ossie Ware Mitchell, for receiving his M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership from the University of West Alabama!

Congratulations to Dr. Melvin Love, principal of Oxmoor Valley Elementary on earning his doctorate degree.

Akina Luckett-Canty, the region 4 representative on the AASP board, was awarded the UAB School Psychometry Program Distinguished Alumni Award! Akina is the lead psychometrist for Birmingham City Schools.

Glen Iris Elementary School teacher Valencia Maiden was recently featured on the Dr. Oz show to discuss how adopting her student, Jamie, changed both of their lives for the better. Watch the video here.
Semmel Jackson, a Woodlawn High School scholar was selected as the Academy of Craft Training’s April Employee of the Month for Electrical! He scored the highest based score on the ACT employability scale this month.

Congrats to Melaja Alford, Jackson-Olin High School scholar-athlete, who recently received an athletic basketball scholarship to Snead State Community College. Melaja also has a 3.1 GPA and is a 4-year letterman.

Ramsay High School junior J’Corion Johnson was featured in The Birmingham Times. J’Corion is the owner and founder of Raw Abiding Citizens, a colorful, youthful clothing brand that reflects not only his creativity, but also his personality. The brand is made up of a diverse selection of T-shirts, jogging suits, dresses, jumpsuits, and ski masks that sell between $8 and $40. In March, Johnson presented the RAC and Friends show at the Palmerdale Homesteads Community Center in Pinson, Alabama. The event — which featured his brand, three other brands, 15 vendors, and a hair show in the middle — provided a look into Johnson’s future endeavors and served as a one-year celebration of his business. Read the story here.

Congrats to Parker Senior Jekovan Rhetta is a record breaker. The Alabama-bound track star ran the 100-meter dash in 10.27 at the state outdoor track and field competition.

Congrats to Jai Carter, the winner of the “Realizing the Dream Essay Contest” and recipient of a Dell laptop computer. Due to her efforts, $1,000 has been awarded to Ramsay High School. Jai is leaving a legacy prior to graduation.

The Birmingham Mitsubishi Automotive Dealership recently presented Huffman High School with a $3,000 annual scholarship at the dealership’s grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony.
VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS
CLASS OF 2021

CARVER HIGH SCHOOL
Tamauri Murray
Keenan Johnson

HUFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL
Giana Trainer
Christiana Moore

JACKSON-OLIN HIGH SCHOOL
Kenedy Johnson
Tiyanah Dudley

PARKER HIGH SCHOOL
Oriana Coleman
Nyia Campbell

RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL
Aimee Howard
Marry DeAustria

WENONAH HIGH SCHOOL
Gabrielle Goldsmith
Kya Norman

WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL
Destiny Nelson-Miles
Nyla Boler

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.