

# **T H E   R E V E R E**

By Students. For Everyone.

# Celebrity Hidden in Our Midst

## Aurora Breland

**Arica Haywood, a sophomore** at Pike Road High School, was crowned the 2020 National American Miss Alabama Jr. Teen and now works every day as an inspiration to girls everywhere.

"When I was first called as the winner, a lot of things were rushing through my head," Haywood said, "because I knew there was more to it than standing there and looking pretty."

National American Miss (NAM), a pageant for girls ages 4-24 who compete to represent their state, was designed to empower young women and help carve their futures. NAM teaches many skills that all who participate take with them for the rest of their lives.

Fifteen-year-old Haywood, who has been attending Pike Road since the first year of its opening, hails from South Carolina and has become a well known member of our community.

*See next page*



***Does PRHS need the 'fashion police'?, see page 9***

***Got a question? Just 'Ask Paul (Revere)'. Advice column, page 10***

## **Blood, sweat, and tears**

In 2015 Arica started to pursue a career in acting, even making an appearance in the hit movie, "Daddy's Home" starring Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell. That same year she got an envelope in the mail asking if she was interested in partaking in NAM, not only would it look good on her resume, there was also a specific competition for acting that would benefit her career.

Deciding to try it out, Arica found herself in the top ten and realized she had a real chance so from there she went on to become the 2018 National American Miss Alabama Pre-Teen and now the 2020 National American Miss Alabama Jr. Teen.

Blood, sweat, and tears isn't much of an overstatement for all the hard work that had to go into it. She practices daily and incorporates it all into her daily life to improve. While she struggles with the formal walk portion of the pageant, she excels at and loves the interviews and personal introduction.

As well as acting and pageantry Arica does majorette, competition tap, and plays the clarinet. Balancing NAM with her schoolwork and other hobbies can be a challenge but she tries not to let it affect her by planning things out and shaking it off when it doesn't go how it's supposed to. There are some things she has to put behind NAM but she realizes, "there are priorities I need to take care of in my life and this is one of them". The big question is, what does that entail?

A NAM representative must gain up to 72 hours of community service by the end of their reign as well as upholding an official instagram account to promote the system. Something Arica has been doing for years is volunteering for her church's food pantry to help as many people as she can not go hungry. That is exactly the kind of tasks she does as NAM Jr. Teen while encouraging others to do the same.



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## **Not just glitz and glam; stand for something**

Last school year she was even given the opportunity to be a global representative for Be Strong, a bullying prevention organization that Arica takes to heart since even she was bullied in elementary. Over time she was able to stand up for herself and even made a friend out of her bully and she wants to help others do the same.

That is what a true NAM representative is about; not just glitz and glam but using their position to help people. You may say it's just an act, that pageant girls are shallow but everyone who knows Arica knows she is a kind, caring, and smart young woman who holds many talents.

A big personal inspiration for Arica is Miss Universe but most importantly her mom who is always with her every step of the day. Although she has already made large successes, Arica dreams for more and plans to apply for Stanford University to possibly become a pharmaceutical scientist or maybe even one day be a red carpet correspondent.

For anyone who may want to follow in her footsteps of pageantry she first of all wants to stress it is, "nothing like Toddlers and Tiaras." In fact the 13 and under age division has a no makeup rule which was very important to Arica when she first started doing pageants because it helped her learn to be comfortable in her own skin and focus on showcasing what is on the inside. That is the biggest piece of advice she can give to anyone is be yourself. Everyone hears that 'corny' slogan everywhere but not many really take it to heart.

"That's something I wish I would have learned and really taken in earlier because if I had well there were probably so many opportunities I had missed if I could have just been myself," Haywood said.

Through the past five years of pageantry this has sunk deeper and deeper and gained her more confidence doing so which is the most important thing a young woman can have.

Another important thing she says to keep in mind is to walk in, do the pageant, and walk out as the same person. Always have an open mind and never let the pageant change you in a bad way, staying true to who you are. Remember you can do anything you put your mind to so if you are interested in NAM or anything of the kind Arica Haywood is always happy to help anyone so don't hesitate to ask.

**Feel free to follow Arica's** reign on Instagram [@thenamaljrteen](https://www.instagram.com/thenamaljrteen) and see her at Nationals in November.

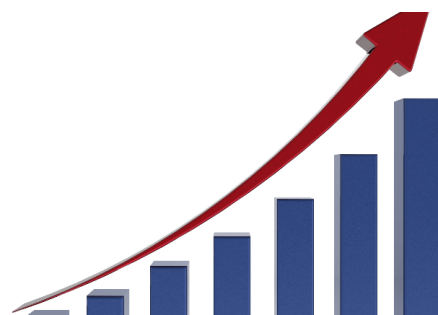


# Pike Road's Rapid Growth Reclassifies School

Naomi Valentine

**This "creates an advantage for us, because all of our families are committed to work for greatness in education."**

Dr. Charles Ledbetter



**Due to a dramatic spike in enrollment** this year, Pike Road has been reclassified from 3A to 5A.

According to spokeswoman Rebecca Williams, Pike Road has grown from about 950 students in its first year to about 2,400 students this year, accounting for a 20% increase in enrollment. This makes Pike Road one of the fastest growing schools in the state.

One notable change that has come with this classification is the seventh through ninth graders becoming the "junior high" within the high school, so that now all learners in seventh through twelfth grade are on the Georgia Washington campus.

"This model allows us more state-funded support staff to help our teachers and allows our students to be in age-appropriate groups," Pike Road Superintendent Charles Ledbetter says.

Administrators stated that they did expect this growth and strategically planned for it to happen. Williams adds that "In 2018 PRS leaders and community members worked with Burke Enterprises, LLC to create a long term strategic plan that guides the decisions making process for long-term success and growth of our school system."

Pike Road is clearly a very appealing school system for many reasons. Ledbetter sees the biggest appeal as the fact that everyone has moved to Pike Road to pursue a better education. The schools chief adds that the appear "creates an advantage for us, because all of our families are committed to work for greatness in education."

# Knocked the Block [Schedule] Off

Caden Bishop

**The Administration changed** the schedule over the summer here at Pike Road High School, leaving many to question why. While students and faculty are no strangers to change at PRHS, this may be the strangest change yet.

As many know, PRHS adopted a block schedule in which students rotated to classes attended based on the day of the week. However, admin this year got rid of that schedule in favor of our current schedule. Students now attend seven classes a day for roughly 45-60 minutes rather than 4 classes for 80-90 minutes each. Our schedule is now essentially the Monday schedule from last year, where students attended all classes and used it as a self-directed learning (SDL) day/ Study Hall.

Now the big question, why did we do this?

"...With the current pandemic, adjustments and changes were made to help us better ensure the safety and well being of all learners and lead learners," said Dr. Brittney Duncan, assistant principal at PRHS. "We spent many days conversing with various stakeholders concerning the schedule. ...We looked at the various factors affecting this year and ultimately made the decision to alter the schedule."

*The Revere* polled the teachers and students to see what they thought about the change. 90% of new teachers liked the schedule, while only 67% of veterans liked the schedule. The most common reason given was that they could see students every day.

*See next page*



Pike Road's battle with  
Covid-19, see page 15

"...The shorter, more frequent meetings also allow for focusing on one topic each day rather than 3 or 4. It allows more time for the information to stick," History teacher Christy Nelson said. "I also like that a student doesn't fall so drastically behind when they have to miss a class."

The final question asked was whether or not one group of students had an advantage, (Virtual or Physical,) and the poll results showed that teachers thought that Face-to-Face had the advantage over virtual learners. But what are the views of PRHS learners?

Over half of the polled students preferred the old schedule; they seem to think that everything is less structured and more chaotic. But of course not all students prefer the old schedule.

"It's a complex issue, but I think being able to hear about a subject matter everyday makes it much easier to remember," junior Tom Walker said. "We get to cover less every class so it's a tradeoff."

"Having a consistent schedule allows me to see each teacher every day, which has really strengthened the student-teacher relationship," Walker added. "Also, ... short classes incentivizes teachers to make more compact lessons," which is another tradeoff for the "boring hour long lessons."

**" ... Having a consistent schedule allows me to see each teacher everyday, which has really strengthened the student teacher relationship."**

Tom Walker

The biggest change for Pike Road came with the pandemic, and the subsequent inclusion of virtual learning, so this begs the question: how do the virtual learners feel about it?

Most students thought that physical had an advantage over virtual, which matches the teachers who thought there was an advantage. Among the virtual/blended learners, over 60% preferred virtual learning with last year's schedule, similar to the teacher response of 55%.

**With all the ducks in a row and our facts gathered**, we are left with a conclusion to make. Was this the right call? Clearly it is a polarizing issue among the learners and lead learners. Some love it, some hate it. More teachers preferred the new schedule, overwhelmingly so, but more students preferred the old schedule.

So it's not a set in stone answer, and whether or not the schedule change was the right move remains to be seen.

# PRHS Students Seek Dress Code Makeover

Piper Bedient & Rebekah Wilson

**The vision of our school** is “Our students are lifelong learners who use their knowledge, skills, and influence to make the world better,” but does our dress code reflect that?

Dress codes have been used for years as a means to protect and unite students, especially in Pike Road Schools. The Patriot's dress code is a series of rules defined by our school's staff and authority, deciding what we can and cannot wear during our daily school life. The dress code is reinforced by staff members, parents, and other students.

While the dress code may have been put in place with good intentions, it seems to the students, or more specifically the female students, this dress code possesses numerous flaws yet to be addressed and resolved. Perhaps the student body of lifelong learners can offer a few solutions.

Pike Road Schools keep their handbook available on the website at all times for the convenience of its viewers. While restrictions and boundaries are commonly a positive thing, there are a few rules that seem to take it too far in the opinions of many students. A few Patriots speak their mind on the subject, more often than not with a hopeful vision for change in mind.

In the dress code, Rule No. 4 reads, “Skirts and shorts must be no shorter than three inches above the kneecap. Additionally, holes in jeans and pants must adhere to the three-inch above the kneecap policy.” Three inches seems a bit too much in the opinions of many students, or more particularly the female students. Rule number six coincides with rule four. Rule No. 6 states: “Leggings may be worn provided the garments covering the leggings meet the standards stated in rule four.”

*See next page*

## Double standards?

Jenna Lawton, a 10th-grade student, said the dress code is too restricting. "Instead of wearing clothes that make me happy," Jenna said she sports sweaters and jeans every day to avoid disciplinary conflict. Due to the fact that leggings cover the wearer's entire leg rather than only a part of the leg, Jenna says that leggings should not adhere to the three-inch policy on shorts and skirts.

Additionally due to the seemingly harshness of the rule, it seems students have been witnessing double standards among the student body. While the young women of our school are more harshly monitored, the gentlemen can get away with shorter and more revealing clothing with little to none of the same consequences.

Female students seem to be pushing for shorter shorts, especially since the students of our school have the sensibility and respect necessary to not be distracted by a few more inches of skin.

"The dress code is really unfair. It doesn't make any sense," said Skarlett Hendrix, an 11th grader, who describes the dress code as bias towards the interest of men. "I have a skirt that is a half inch out of dress code, and I have actually been dress coded for being half an inch out of code."

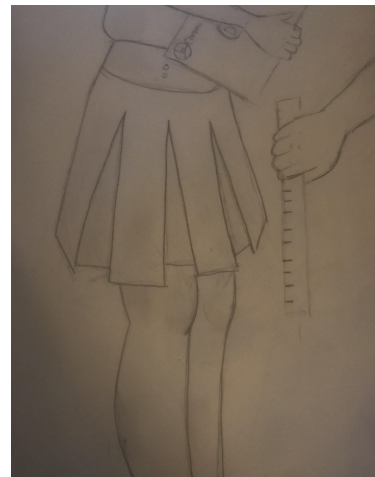


Photo illustration by Piper Bedient

Benjamin Kruggel, a science teacher and Air Force veteran, said the dress code encourages students to dress in an appropriate and professional manner. Although a good point, many feel the dress code within the handbook, while it does seek to reach an undistracted environment, does not aim to achieve a professional environment with the exception of student project presentations.

Rule No. 8 of the dress code addresses the state of the student's hair with restrictions on length, style, and color. According to rule number eight of the dress code, "Learners must have clean-shaven faces. A learner's hair must not cover his or her eyes. Male learners must not have ponytails and hair length must be above the shoulder. Hair must not be of unnatural colors."

*See next page*



## 'That's not fair; it's just hair'

While not wishing to have hair in one's eyes is understandable, students such as Justin Givens claim not to be distracted by uniquely colored hair.

"I only get distracted for a moment," Justin says, "but then get right back to work because it is far more important."

Additionally, Longer hair is not distracting on a woman, nor should it be an issue on a man. A student, who wishes to be unnamed, proudly displays his facial hair each year.

"If I was asked to shave," he says, "I would say it's a choice and a part of my freedom to express myself."

Hair should not and, according to those interview , does not have an effect on a student's performance in class. "That's not fair; it's just hair," Skarlett adds.

Pike Road should be a safe place to express oneself and one's style. Students are far less distracted by clothing and style choices than the faculty gives them credit for. While it seems the rules are unbalanced, they can easily be repaired.

The Dress Code is written as a supposed way to benefit the students; however, it seems that the students have yet to get an efficient voice in the matter.

"If it (referring to dress code) is an overarching problem, then yes," Chemistry teacher Monette Harrison said. "Perhaps, since it seems more and more students are noticing the disparity within the handbook's dress code, it is time for a student council to be formed in order to update the dress code and make other changes as well ..."

**Want to read the Dress Code for yourself? Find it on page 50 of the [Student Handbook](#)**

# Ask Paul! (Revere)

Aurora Breland



**Q:** *My boyfriend doesn't know how to be romantic or show feelings. Is there something I can do or are all boys vague and unaware of how to treat a girl?*

**A:** Firstly, make sure he has good intentions. Secondly, no not all boys are unaware. Society makes it seem like all men should be tough with no feelings which is not true. You need to make sure he knows that you are there for him and you are a safe place for him to express his feelings. Communication is key in a relationship. Just be honest with him and hopefully he will be honest with you.

**Q:** *I am struggling with self-image issues, constant dejection, and I can't help but feel as though I am always disappointing people, but my parents think that I am perfectly happy all the time. They are always a bit too busy to talk, and when I try to talk about my feelings, they brush me off as being "just a teen" or that I'm "just exaggerating for attention." How do I tell them how I feel, and what's the best way to tell them I need professional help.*

**A:** Yes you should always respect your parents but they should also respect you. There are ways to stand up to them without being rude. Just sit down with them and tell them to put down their phones and listen because it is important. Be completely honest with them and tell them what is going on. If they still don't listen then go to someone who will. Either another family member who can talk to them for you or even a school guidance counselor. No one will judge you. Asking for help is something you should never be ashamed of. Ever. Your mental health is important, keep taking care of yourself and remember you are strong and you are loved.

# Ask Paul! (cont.)

**Q:** *How do I manage my time between staying on track with classes along with extracurriculars while still having time for myself?*

**A:** The best way to manage your time is create a to-do list and figure out your priorities. Get your important/time-sensitive tasks done first and spread out the rest of your work over the week. Set time limits for each task and fit it to your schedule working hard and staying focused. Then ensure that you give yourself time to just relax and take care of yourself. A way to do that is setting a time that can be your stopping point everyday (with exceptions). So if you work all day at school, sports, and then come home and do homework for hours you need to know your limits and stop at (for example) 8:30 every day and spend the rest of your night enjoying yourself. Every day counts so don't spend it all stressing yourself out.

**Q:** *How do I gain the courage to tell someone I like them?*

**A:** Life is short. Take the risk and just tell them. Don't be scared, the worst that will happen is they say they don't feel the same. Your risk will pay off either way. If they like you back then you could get a wonderful happy relationship out of it. If they don't like you romantically then it's their loss. Remember you are amazing and special and that even if they don't feel the same you are one step closer to the person who does, the person you are meant to be with. Always take control of your life and find the happy ending you deserve.



**If you have a  
question for  
Ask Paul,  
[click here](#)**

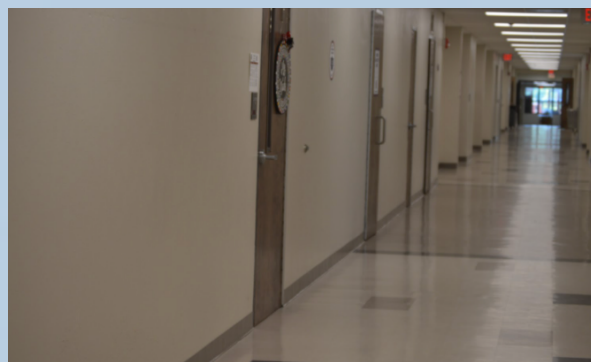
# Out With the Old, In With the New

Allie Haynes

Photos by Allie Haynes and Emma Krasnowiecki



**After almost an entire year of construction work, the exterior and interior of PRHS are finally renovated! As you look at these pictures, you can see the drastic changes and improvements that have been made since last school year. Not only have they changed the hallways, but also classrooms and the gym.**



# Pike Road vs. Covid-19

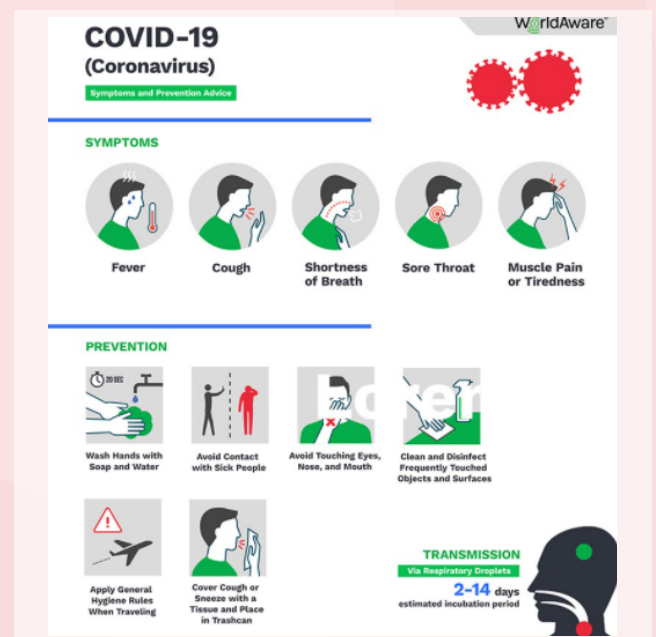
Abbie Roach

**How is Pike Road** actually faring against the pandemic? To date, Pike Road has had six publicly confirmed cases and 63 quarantined. Last month, principals Gregory Foster and Dr. Jason Hadden sent an email confirming that Pike Road had indeed experienced its first wave of infection.

The administrators assured that even with these events “the number of confirmed positive cases is less than 1% of the traditional student population.”

It is an unfortunate truth that infection was unavoidable even with precautions and safety measures in place. A student who tested positive for the virus understands this as they responded to being asked their thoughts since being infected with the virus

“If you’re within 6 feet of someone with a mask on, you’re still exposed, and there’s nothing you can do about that. It’s inevitable that the virus will spread, and the only way to keep it from spreading is to stay away from people, which isn’t very ideal,” stated the student who asked not to be identified.



(Image from World Aware)  
Expanded version [here](#)

“We follow the guidelines to protect other people from the virus because for people our age, it’s just like the flu. You’re down for a couple days, you have bad headaches and can’t think for a week and then you get back up. The reason we are so cautious is because we don’t want our grandparents or people with bad health conditions to contract the virus. It could really put their lives in danger.”



## Slow the spread

The COVID survivor added that they exhibited symptoms such as congestion, headache, fatigue, stomach ache, and a sore throat. It is worth noting that the student's dealings with the virus have not shaken their conviction:

"We can't fear living life because of a virus. We can follow all the precautions and do everything we can to keep it from spreading, but we can't be scared to go spend time with people or go to school because a virus is going around. Children and teenagers need to be in school to get a good education. Parents need to be able to go to work to support their families. Don't fear COVID, just do your part to keep it from getting worse."

As observed by many students and teachers, not everyone will easily comply with precautions and guidelines put in place. A student attending school traditionally answered what they believe is the problem and where the solution lies, "Teachers have to tell students to either wear their mask or wear their mask properly. Everyone knew when they selected to do traditional school that they would have to wear a mask all day, so they should wear it all day... If you don't want to wear your mask like you're told to do, then do virtual school. That puts one less person in the school, which means one less person who could be exposed and could expose others."

As stated before not all precautions guarantee immunity and safety from the virus, however, it should be noted how effective masks are. According to the [CDC website](#), the virus correlates and spreads heavily through respiratory droplets expelled into the air by exhaling. When you wear a mask you severely deplete the chance of those droplets spreading through the air to be breathed in by a peer. The traditional student was also asked what they believe we as a student body could do to slow the spread they stated that they "don't know if there is anything we can do besides what we're already doing. People are going to get this virus, that is a fact, but we can slow the spread by continuing to wear your mask properly and do your best to social distance."

The traditional student's beliefs concur with the advice of Nurse Lativia Jackson. She advises that we wear our masks at all times, remember to use proper hand hygiene, as well as remember to maintain a six-foot distance for no more than 15 minutes. Nurse Jackson is the Pike Road High School and Junior High campus nurse.

*See next page*

## **'Make sacrifices to make fellow students feel safe'**

In accordance with both Nurse Jackson and the traditional student who spoke out about their idea for a solution, Nurse Amber Stevens, the District Nursing Supervisor, discusses her thoughts on how Pike Road is faring:

**"It has certainly been an interesting start to the year. We have had an expected amount of positive cases, and that does result in multiple learners being placed in quarantine. This was inevitable, and in my opinion, we are doing really well. Our learners should continue to wear masks (even when away from school), and social distance as much as possible. The most important thing each one of us can do to reduce the spread is to stay at home for any (and I really mean any) signs of illness. Most of the cases we are seeing have reported minor symptoms lasting only a few days. If you think it's only a head cold, but really it is COVID, and you come to school then where does that leave us? Food for thought, right? We must all do our part to ensure the health of our vulnerable population. It is not the healthy high school students who we are most concerned about; rather we are trying to protect someone's mother/father or grandmother/grandfather from succumbing to the lethal repercussions of this virus. Let's do what we can to protect our elders; we know they would do it for us!"**

In wake of the pandemic, Pike Road complies to, but is not limited to, the following guidelines:

- Required facemasks at all times possible
- Highly recommended frequent hand hygiene
- Social Distancing of six feet for no more than 15 minutes
- Sanitation of all frequented areas

**It is important to understand** our impact on each other, so during these difficult times we should remember the words of a fellow student, "No matter what you believe about the pandemic, you can make sacrifices to make your fellow students feel safe."

If you would like more information on how to combat the virus and how it is affecting us here in Alabama we suggest you visit [Alabama's Public Health Department's website.](#)

# T H E R E V E R E

By Students. For Everyone.

## The Star- Spangled Crew

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