



## Annual Report 2014-15



### SYSTEM SNAPSHOT

**Enrollment:** .....3084  
 JPES .....772  
 SES .....453  
 RES .....438  
 ACMS .....495  
 BRHS .....974

**Ethnicity:**  
 Asian .....1%  
 Black .....39%  
 Hispanic .....5%  
 Multi-Racial .....2%  
 White .....53%

**Attendance:** .....95.01%

**Number of 2014 Wildcat  
 Community Service Awards:** .....26

**Value of 2015  
 Scholarships** .....\$3.8 million  
**AP Courses Taken** .....182

**Dual Enrollment  
 Courses Taken:** .....25

**Graduation Rate:** .....87%

**Per Pupil  
 Expenditure** .....\$9,150

**Employees** .....324  
 Certified .....239  
 Support .....85

**Teacher Qualifications**  
 Doctorate .....2.09%  
 AA/Ed.S .....8.4%  
 Masters .....52.3%  
 Bachelors .....37.2%

**Teacher Attendance  
 Rate:** .....93.33%

**National Board  
 Certified Teachers** .....6

**All Schools and the District are  
 AdvancED accredited.**



ACS Teacher of the Year  
 Susan Green



# Superintendent

J. Darrell Cooper, Ed.D.

Greetings from the Alexander City Schools!

I am happy to present this publication as a brief record of the many outstanding activities and accomplishments of the Alexander City Schools (ACS) during the 2014-15 school year. As you will see, we have much to be thankful for and proud of in our school system.



In sharing a few highlights, I must start by calling attention to how blessed we are in the ACS to have such a quality staff. We have 324 teachers and support staff who work daily with a sense of dedication and passion to provide the very best for our students. Beyond their outstanding job in the classroom, our teachers dedicate countless hours to training and other professional activities, evidenced by the 8,298 hours or 41.3 hours per teacher of professional development training completed in the past year. We have many “super” teachers, but this year, we are especially proud of the accomplishments of three teachers – Mrs. Kenyatta Simmons (SES) and Mrs. Sharon Brantley (BRHS), finalists for the prestigious Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame, and Mrs. Susan Green (ACMS), ACS Teacher of the Year. I send a big THANK YOU to our staff for a very successful 2014-15 school year!

The relationship between our community and the ACS is truly special in Alex City. Whether it’s monetary support, a helping hand with school projects, support for our academic programs, or cheering on Wildcat athletic teams, our community is ALWAYS there with support. At the same time, we want our students to understand the importance of having a giving community spirit. Each year, our students at all grade levels are involved in many efforts to raise thousands of dollars for both local and global fundraising initiatives to support worthy causes. This past year, we moved to challenge our students to an even greater level in this area, implementing the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge*. Students in grades 7-8 are challenged to complete ten hours and students in grades 9-12 to complete twenty-five hours of community service per year. Meeting this challenge is now a requirement for the Honors Diploma.

Words cannot describe how excited we were in the past year to implement a K-12 comprehensive fine arts program. The opportunity was made possible through a financial commitment from the Alexander City Council. Due to this generous allocation, we implemented offerings in music and visual arts to all students in grades K-4; music, visual arts, and drama in grades 5-6; and band, choral, drama, and visual arts in grades 7-12. Just like the students’ academic or athletic experiences in our schools, these programs will enrich the lives of our students throughout a lifetime.

Other notable accomplishments over the past year include:

- Establishment of first Pre-K class at JPES, with an enrollment of 18 students, served by two certified teachers;
- Expansion of our after-school program, After the Bell, to include students in grades 2-8, increasing participants to over 150; Welcoming three new principals to our schools – Mr. Jamie Forbus, JPES; Mr. Andy Caves, RES; and Dr. Anthony Wilkinson, BRHS;
- Earning district-wide accreditation through the *AdvancEd* accreditation organization;
- Expanding our Career and Technical Education Department through a \$503,000 purchase of equipment; the addition of a career teacher in the areas of robotics, engineering, and electronics; and expanding our cooperative education program from 21 to 42 students;
- Continuation of our award-winning elementary and middle school robotics programs and our expansion of robotics to BRHS, where we established our first BEST Robotics competitive team;
- Completing network upgrades that provide up to 1 GB at BRHS and expanding the overall bandwidth across the district to 400 MB;
- Completion of the 1:1 iPad initiative at BRHS (grades 9-12) and providing additional units across the district, raising our totals to approximately 1,600 units, with each grade level having a minimum of 30 units;
- Completion of a comprehensive, district-wide facilities assessment, which will be used in the coming year to complete a 30-year comprehensive facilities plan; and
- Implementation of strategic teaching and student engagement teaching principles across the district, which was strengthened by training, visitations, and the support of Ron Clark and the Ron Clark Academy.

As you can see from the items above, we have much to be proud of in the Alexander City Schools. We’re a strong school system with outstanding community support, and I look forward to the coming year, as we strive to climb to even greater heights!

Best regards,

J. Darrell Cooper, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Alexander City Schools



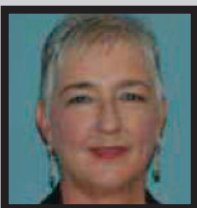


# Benjamin Russell High School

**Dr. Anthony Wilkinson, Principal**

- Class of 2015 received \$3.8 million in scholarship offerings
- Issued iPads to all students in grades 9-12
- Sharon Brantley was selected as BRHS Teacher of the Year
- Sharon Brantley was selected as a State Finalist for the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame
- Teacher Daniel Thompson was selected as a teacher for the prestigious Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta
- BRHS teachers participated in professional development opportunities, which included project based learning, whole brain instruction and strategic teaching, and laid the foundation for becoming a Professional Learning Community through peer instructional rounds; hosted instructional rounds focusing on active engagement for system teachers and administrators
- Created Teacher Leadership Team to improve school climate
- Teacher Leadership Team developed surveys to establish future curriculum alignments; observed Munford Elementary and Lincoln High School's whole brain learning and active engagement through instructional rounds; collaborated with CACC to create a vertical alignment
- Developed the *Bridge Program*, including partnerships with business and community, to facilitate students' dream careers into becoming a reality
- Adopted *Character, Class and Pride* as the new BRHS motto
- Instructed students on the Big 4 questions aimed at students taking ownership of their learning
- Instructional focus on 21st Century Skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity
- Introduced digital portfolios
- Welcomed parents and community members to classrooms to observe increased active engagement
- Instructional shift focused on learning content through application of critical thinking skills by solving real world problems
- iGrad, an alternative program, allowed students to earn their diploma in a virtual setting
- Football team had a 10-2 record, third consecutive season of 10+ wins, and a second round playoff bid
- Quinstavious Johnson was offered a football scholarship to Point College
- Volleyball team won the Area 4 Tournament and progressed to Super-Regional Tournament
- Jada Carr signed to play volleyball for Gadsden State Community College
- Chloe Owens signed to play volleyball for Wallace-Selma Community College
- Whitley Bailey represented BRHS in the Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Scholarship program as Regional Achievement Winner
- Girls tennis team finished 2nd at Sectionals to earn a berth in the State Tournament
- Boys tennis team finished 3rd in Sectionals; were 3rd seed doubles Sectional Champions; and #5 and #6 singles Sectional Runner-Ups
- Robert Howard signed to swim for the University of Alabama; won the 50-yard freestyle at the AHSAA Swimming Championships; and finished runner-up in the 100-yard freestyle
- Wrestling team finished 7th at the AHSAA State Wrestling Tournament; qualified 11 wrestlers for the tournament; and four won medals - Thomas Coley, 6th; Justavious Robinson, 4th; Kashus Culpepper, 1st; and Daniel Bland, 1st
- Girls golf team hosted the 6A-7A Section 2 Tournament for the first time, finished 3rd, and qualified for the Sub-State Tournament
- Baseball players Corley Woods, Jacob Rogers, Connor Brooks and Darius Jackson were selected to participate in the 2015
- ALABCA Top 120 Showcase
- Corley Woods was selected to Team Alabama and participated against Georgia and Tennessee squads in a baseball showcase
- Seth Hendon signed a baseball scholarship with Southern Union Community College
- Varsity boys basketball finished with a 16-12 overall record; finished runner-up in the Cornerstone Thanksgiving Tournament; were Champions of "The Classic;" hosted the 1st Annual Lake Martin Slam Fest; participated in the MLK tournament at Birmingham Southern; and awarded William Trout the prestigious Childers/Carney Award
- Antonio Wilson was offered a basketball scholarship to Bethel College
- Boys soccer team finished first in their section to earn a berth in the AHSAA Final Four
- Soccer players Grant Hudson and Phillip Speake were selected to play on the AHSAA South All-Star Team
- Girls soccer team finished the season ranked 10th, placed third in the Southern Shootout Gold Division, and competed in the Elite 8 Quarter Final Playoff Round
- Soccer player Ruth Anne Ballard was named to the AHSAA South All-Star Team with Sydney Pemberton and Karina Naranjo being nominated to the team
- Soccer player Payton Rye was named to the Super All State Team/AL.com with Bethany Miller and Daly Wagoner being nominated for the team
- BRHS Men and Women assisted with 9th-12th grade registration; assisted ACS System Institute; greeted guests at open house/parent night; provided assistance at home football games; assisted with EL Nights; hosted ACMS Men and Women for leadership training; presented at BRHS leadership and instructional rounds; volunteered at the Rent-A-Worker Fundraiser; raised money for a senior scholarships; participated in Leadership Day at Oxford High School; hosted JPES Ambassadors; and guided tours with Ron Clark and guest
- BRHS Mat Cats earned 16+ hours of community service for supporting youth programs
- National Honor Society's 92 members clocked 2,792 hours of community service which included the Turkey Trot fundraiser for needy families, King of Hearts all male beauty contest for the American Heart Association, Russell Forest Run, Sav-a-Life "Fill the Crib" project, the "Sky Lantern" fundraiser for Relay for Life earning NHS the *Spirit of Relay Award* at the RFL event
- Inducted 51 new National Honor Society members who met the 3.75 GPA, 25+ service hours, and strong character references
- Sixty-three BRHS Marching Pride students participated in regional university sponsored honor bands and solo/ensemble festivals
- Softball team finished 2nd in the area tournament qualifying them for the Super-Region Tournament and volunteered in constructing the raised-bed gardens at BRHS
- Taylor Hutto signed to play softball with Central Alabama Community College
- Makayla McVey, Cambron Bice and Southerland Pritchard attended the HOBY Leadership Conference at Troy University
- Choral classes performed in a Spring Concert
- Drama classes performed the play *Hairspray*
- Additional technology allowed BRHS TV to record TV news and announcements for students to view on their iPads
- Twenty-four honor diploma students in the 9th grade met the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge*





# Career & Technical Education

Ms. Kim Davis, Director

- Began the electronics program, with students participating in the *BEST Robotic* competition at Auburn University
- Participation by over 100 students in Auburn University Engineering Day
- Participation by engineering and electronics students at the Technology Student Association state convention in Tuscaloosa
- Hosted the Robotic Mobile Unit from Robotic Technology Park, with approximately 400 students and teachers touring
- *Everfi Financial Literacy* Certification earned by 91% of students in Career Preparedness Class
- \$6,500 grant awarded to Art and Communication Advertising Design Program to be used for Adobe Software
- Recipient of *Columbia Scholastic Press Association Silver Award* for 2015 yearbook
- Ryan Pearson and Collin Miller - first and second place respectively in the ACSEF Art Show
- Athletic media programs for volleyball and softball created by Digital Design students
- Attendance of all Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) at Joint Leadership Development Conference in Birmingham
- Two LifeSouth blood drives hosted by Health Occupations Student Association
- Community Breast Cancer Luncheon attended by HOSA members;

- assisted in decorating and serving for the luncheon of 500 community members
- Participation of HOSA members ringing bell for Salvation Army fundraising
- Completion of clinical rotations at Brown Nursing Home by ten Health Science students, completing requirements for Certified Nursing Assistant credentialing
- Attended and competed at the HOSA state conference in Montgomery
- Attended UAB HOSA Day
- Anti-tobacco campaign, *Tar Wars*, presented by HOSA members to all 5th grade students at RES
- Doubled cooperative education participation from 21 students to 42
- Attendance of FCCLA officers at Junior Leadership Development Conference in Birmingham
- Attended FCCLA state meeting and judged Star Events
- Participation by FCCLA in Bill Myers Back Pack Program at the Tallapoosa Christian Crisis Center
- Participation by FCCLA in the annual fundraiser for SavALife
- Participation by FCCLA in the *Fill the Crib* program
- Career Tech classes under the instruction of Ed Allen constructed mobile book carts for the United Way *Brainiac Boot Camp* summer reading program



## ALEXANDER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Kelly Waldrop, Board Vice President; Steve Robinson, Board President;  
Dr. Darrell Cooper, Superintendent;  
David Sturdivant, Michael Ransaw, Dorothea Walker



## ACS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Sharon Brantley, BRHS; Chris Burley, SES; Tony Franklin, RES;  
Nancy Burton, JPES; Susan Green, ACMS





# Alexander City Middle School

Mr. Reginald Clifton, Principal

- AMSTI and ARI school
- Conducted *Kinects* DNA labs, strawberry DNA labs, and dissection labs
- Constructed 7th grade science garden
- 8th grade classes participated in the *Choices* character education program
- Technology and Journalism classes created *Red Ribbon Week Say No to Drugs* videos and used iMovie and Animoto to create video book trailers and stories
- Participated in the Alabama Education Association's *Be A Champion, Read* competition
- Held a Parent Technology Night
- Hosted a book fair in conjunction with Family Day
- Created a Donors Choose account and raised \$400 to purchase multicultural books
- Received a grant to provide *Stride Academy*, allowing for academic practice at home and school
- Participated in *Learning Earnings* state pilot – a positive behavior support program and rewarded participants
- 40 students participated in a Black History Program - *A Walk Through African-American History: A Timeline of Greatness*
- 8th grade student Christi Bui painted a canvas of the cover from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* for the library
- Art classes made African masks and created self-portraits to display
- 7th grade math classes produced 3-D Origami figures, Play-Doh sculptures, and a human histogram
- STEM classes participated in *Project Lead the Way* curriculum; built toothpick bridges, newspaper tables, and skimmers; and competed in an egg drop competition
- Continued use of Document Based Questioning in studying primary documents
- Five students participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program, with student Alixys Tate qualifying for State and Grand Recognition and for the Center for Summer Studies Program
- Hosted the Alabama Robotics Truck
- Red Cross Club hosted a bake sale to purchase 27 comfort kits for the American Red Cross and hosted a blood drive
- Men and Women of ACMS attended a workshop with Central Alabama Community College Ambassadors to learn leadership skills
- ACMS Choir performed for various audiences, including After the Bell, Jim Pearson Veterans Day Assembly, ACMS Veterans Day Assembly, St. Patrick's Day program, and Winter and Spring Concerts
- Student Government Association hosted a Spirit Week during Homecoming
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes provided food, clothing, and necessities for families who lost loved ones or the belongings in a fire
- Sponsored a Guitar Club
- Jr. Civitan Club received the *Collection Award* with a 10% membership increase; attended the national conference in Pensacola, FL; received recognition for their efforts in collecting 500 pounds of pop tops for Children's Hospital and 800 pounds of canned goods for the Salvation Army; rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas; provided

Christmas presents for three students; and contributed to a PAWS service project at the national convention

- 135 ACMS Band members presented a Spring Concert
- After the Bell Robotics received 1st place in the District Core Value Contest and 2nd place in the Missions Contest
- Held a weekly God's Girls Devotional
- Yearbook staff recognized for Perfect Performance Award in meeting 2015 yearbook deadlines and toured Herff Jones production plant in Montgomery, AL
- Kiwanis Builders Club recognized as Distinguished Club of 2015; received banner patches for Trick or Treat for UNICEF and Eliminate Week; donated cleaning supplies to the Alabama Girls Ranch; painted JPES Cafeteria with the Kiwanis Club; assisted in Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast; rang the bell for Salvation Army at Christmas; attended Kiwanis Club lunch meetings; recognized the members of the Alexander City Board of Education during School Board Appreciation Month; donated a microwave during Teacher Appreciation Week; and contributed \$150 to a local summer reading program for children
- Drama students presented *Hairspray* and participated in the ACMS Black History Program
- ACMS Math Team placed 3rd in the Southern Union Community College Math Competition, with individual members placing 4th and 5th
- Participated in the Bill Meyers Backpack Program
- Offered team opportunities in football, cross country, soccer, wrestling, volleyball, cheerleading, dance team, boys basketball, girls basketball, softball, baseball, track, and golf
- ACMS Wrestling won 2nd place in the Tallassee Wrestling Tournament
- Started the first ACMS Golf Team, with all five players being ranked in the top 20 of 43 region participants and three being in the top five; three tournament wins and placed 2nd in two tournaments
- Dance Team attended camp at Auburn University, earning a Superior Trophy and 110% Award; Jordan Bailey, Devin Bradford, Journee Culpepper, Sarah Beth Griffin, Hallah James, and Erin Smith selected as All-Americans
- ACMS Dance Team performed at all football games and home basketball games
- Coach Jon Owens recognized for 20 years of service by the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association
- Teacher Monica Anderson received the WAKA Golden Apple Award
- Media specialist Tonya Simmons provided all teachers with professional development in the use of the iPad for Productivity, using iPads in the classroom, using the Alabama Learning Exchange, and iPad Basics
- Teacher Susan Green selected to pilot a new AMSTI program
- Teacher Susan Green awarded Alexander City Middle School Teacher of the Year
- Teacher Susan Green awarded Alexander City Schools Teacher of the Year
- Teacher Rachel Rogers led school efforts to work with community members and social media contacts to collect 400 bags of personal toiletries for the Bill Meyers Backpack Program

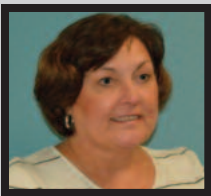




# Radney Elementary School

Mr. Andrew Caves, Principal

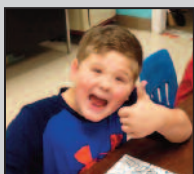
- 125 "A-B" Honor Roll students
- Increased STAR Scale scores for Reading and Math
- Provided teachers with iPads and related training
- Stride Academy School
- AMSTI School
- Robotics Team placed First Place at the National Robotics Competition hosted by the National World War II Museum in New Orleans
- Hosted RES Wellness Club's Inaugural 5K Fun Run
- Achieved highest district attendance rates for both teachers and students
- Established third portable iPad lab
- 84 Drama Club students performed *Peter Pan*
- Implemented Document Based Questioning (DBQ)
- Established RES Online Library
- Veterans Day Program including guest speaker Rev. Emerson Ware
- Black History Celebration Program - student production with guest speaker Mr. Garland Gamble
- Housed Kitty Dark Art Camp, a summer enrichment program
- National WWII Museum recognized the RES Lego Warriors for participating in Back The 'Bot Challenge
- Hosted RES Talent Show for 6th graders
- Student-published yearbook
- Approximately 75 students met weekly for Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Provided a 6th Grade DARE Program
- Awarded Barbara H. Young Academic Award to 5th grade student Trace McCaleb and 6th grade student Valerie Tauro
- Implemented social media communication through RES Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Schoolwide computer-based ACT Aspire testing
- Average of 46 teacher professional development hours
- Implemented active engagement strategies observed at the Ron Clark Academy
- Tony Franklin named Teacher of the Year



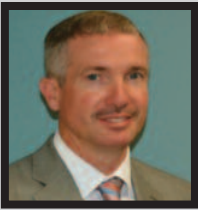
# Stephens Elementary School

Ms. Kim Smith, Principal

- Hosted a summer reading program - *Braniac Boot Camp*, an initiative of Lake Martin Area United Way
- Art teacher Elizabeth Minyard attended the National Consortium for Teaching
- Fourth grade teacher Kenyatta Simmons selected as a finalist in the elementary division of the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame
- Selected as a "Model School" by Learning Earnings, a web based token economy system based on positive behavior interventions
- Continued the before-school SES Band and Choral program
- Sponsored a non-perishable food drive for the Tallapoosa Christian Crisis Center and collected in excess of 1500 pounds of food
- Over 100 students performed in the annual Black History Program
- Chris Burley selected as Teacher of the Year
- Partnered with LMRA in an effort to keep Lake Martin Clean
- Fourth graders participated in the Tallapoosa County Water Festival
- AMSTI School
- ARI School
- Home of Faulkner University Elementary Learning Lab
- Participated in the Red Ribbon Week activities, including *Say No to Drugs* art and essay contests
- Hosted two book fairs
- Participated in the Alabama Education Association's *Be A Champion, Read* competition
- Counselor Lysa Gordon provided intensive bullying prevention training to teachers and students
- Held Instructional Nights for parents and students
- Over 150 students attended weekly Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings
- Hosted *Auntie Litter Program*
- Attended the RES performance of *Peter Pan* at BRHS
- Attended the BRHS Drama Club performance of *Hairspray* at BRHS
- Fourth graders participated in the GREAT program aimed at gang resistance education
- Attended a *Gutsy the Flying Fox* performance focusing on bullying prevention
- Awarded Accelerated Reader incentives at the end of each nine-weeks
- Participated in Box Tops for Education resulting in over \$2000 for the Physical Education Department
- Held annual Field Day
- Hosted recycling drive for ink cartridges and cellphones
- Participated in a Cookie Dough Fundraiser raising over \$12,000
- Participated in *Jump Rope for Heart* raising over \$3,000
- Provided vision screenings through The Lions Club
- Provided dental screenings through local dentists
- Hosted *Break for A Plate*, a program where lunches were available free for anyone 18 and under during Spring Break
- Housed the CNP's summer breakfast and lunch programs



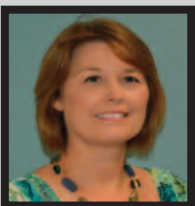




# Jim Pearson Elementary School

Mr. Jamie Forbus, Principal

- Maintained status as a *Leader in Me Lighthouse School*
- Implemented first Pre-K class for ACS
- Nancy Burton named Teacher of the Year
- Annual May Day Celebration including a one-mile fun run for students
- Students participated in monthly Club Day meetings
- Raised over \$6,000 in United Way fundraiser
- Raised over \$5,000 for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart
- Raised over \$1,000 for Relay for Life
- Treated students to an inflatable bounce slide for an *Accelerated Reader* reward
- Awarded students who obtained 100+ *Accelerated Reader* points to a special lunch
- Beth Barker, 2nd grade teacher, was presented with the *Class Act Award* from WSFA-12
- Participated in the Bill Myers Backpack Program
- Attended The Educational Theatre production of *Pinocchio*
- Civic Club collected and delivered canned foods for the Tallapoosa Christian Crisis Center and Children's Harbor
- Staff participated in the Russell Forest Run, both as runners and volunteers to support ACSEF
- CACC Ambassadors collaborated with Ambassador Club
- Animal Club visited The Stables at Russell Crossroads
- Mayor Charles Shaw spoke with students about local government
- Representative Mark Tuggle spoke to the Ambassador Club
- Sponsored Grandparent's Day, Red Ribbon Week, Book Fairs, and EL Nights
- Mystery readers from the community read to students
- Alex City Fire Department demonstrated fire equipment
- Physical Education Department recycled phones, CDs, and ink cartridges with classes being recognized for monthly donations
- Collected Box Tops for Education with top classes recognized each month
- Earth Club recycled cans, plastic, and paper
- PATH Lake Martin assisted students in preparing and planting a school garden
- Planted a Japanese Maple provided in honor of Earth Day
- Veterans Day Program honored local veterans including patients at the local Veterans' home
- Kindergarten students performed at the annual JPES Christmas Concert
- Hosted parents on days designated as "Muffins with Moms" and "Doughnuts with Dads"
- Participated in the Pond Owners Mentoring Program
- NED Show encouraged students to become "Champions at School and in Life"
- Conducted annual student talent show at BRHS auditorium
- Alex City Police Department sponsored the *Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program* for first graders and *Auntie Litter Program* for second graders
- Provided dental screenings through assistance from local dentists
- Presented the Principal's Award for outstanding leadership, citizenship, and academics to students Julie Ann Wilson and Michael Stroud
- Installed a new gym floor
- Music Club performed at the ACS Board of Education
- Local stakeholders presented second grade students with a copy of *Eight Keys to a Better Me*
- Teachers and administrators attended the National Educators Conference at Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA
- Hosted a preview day for local daycares and preschools
- Aubie, the Auburn University mascot, visited first grade students
- Celebrated the 100th day of school with a parade and balloon release
- Attended RES Drama Club's production of *Peter Pan*
- "Spotlight Students" were recognized monthly with breakfast and a certificate
- Promoted perfect attendance in September with Mr. Forbus taking the Cold Water Challenge



## SCHOOL FINANCIALS

Mrs. Rhonda Blythe, Chief School Financial Officer

- **Annual Budget = \$30.67 million**
- **FY 2014 Ending General Fund Balance = \$3,933,575.19 (1.82 months reserve)**
- **FY 2014 Expenditures (in millions)**
  - Instructional Services - \$15.94
  - Instructional Support Services - \$4.33
  - Auxiliary Services - \$3.15
  - Operation & Maintenance - \$2.05
  - Debt Services - \$1.93
  - General Administrative Services - \$1.29
- **Annual Revenue Sources**
  - State - 54.7%
  - Federal - 10.4%
  - Local - 25.2%
  - Other - 5.50%
  - Other Financing Sources - 4.20%
- **Per Pupil Expenditure = \$9,150**
- **ACBOE received a "clean" FY 2014 audit**



# Federal and Alternative Programs

**Mrs. Marie McCall, Director**

- **Title I, Part A -**
- Annual allocation - \$808,798
- Provided class-size reduction units at JPES (3.25), SES (2.50), and RES (2.25)
- Delivered all core instruction at Title I schools through a “Highly Qualified” teacher
- Provided professional development for all K-6 teachers and administrators
- Provided parent workshops and parent instructional materials for K-6 schools
- Funded K-6 district initiatives - *STAR Reading and Math; Accelerated Reader; STAR Early Literacy; and Scantron Analytics*
- Provided *Jump Start Summer Remediation* for JPES students
- Provided funding for purchase of research-based supplemental materials (K-6 schools) - *The Leader In Me; Odysseyware, Apple iPads ; and Apple TVs*
- **Title II, Part A**
- Annual allocation - \$212,598
- Provided two class-size reduction units at RES
- Title II funds only allocated to fund “Highly Qualified” core teachers
- Provided high quality, research-based professional development for core instructors and administrators K-12
- Provided funds to reimburse expenses associated with testing and coursework necessary for teachers to achieve and maintain “Highly Qualified” status
- **Title III, English as A Second Language (ESL)**
- Annual Allocation - \$14,195
- Supplemental student classroom materials provided for ESL students in all schools
- High quality professional development activities provided for ESL and core teachers
- **Title VI, RLIS**
- Annual Allocation - \$69,844
- Provided high quality professional development activities for K-12 teachers and administrators
- Provided K-12 supplemental classroom materials to students
- Provided online access to *STAR Reading and Math* and *Scantron Analytics* for students (grades 7-12)
- **ACS Alternative Programs**
- Implemented a new alternative learning program, Phoenix Academy, for students in grades 7-12
- Created Phoenix Academy handbooks, intake documents, certificates, and success documentation forms
- Provided guest speakers to provide positive interaction role models for students in Phoenix Academy
- Provided 15 computers for Phoenix Academy - Title VI funds \$11,442.00
- Provided instructional supplies for Phoenix Academy students and teachers - At-risk funds \$987.33
- Purchased *ABE* (Alternative Behavior Educator) for grades K-12 - Title VI funds \$2,700.00
- Provided *Odysseyware*, an online curriculum and instructional tool, for K-12 core, elective, and CTE courses
- Provided *Odysseyware* professional development for BRHS and Phoenix Academy teachers
- Provided direct math instruction and student counseling services for students at Phoenix Academy



# AUXILIARY SERVICES

**Mr. Keith Lashley, Director**

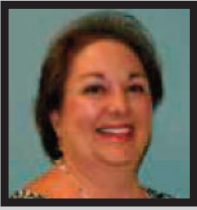
## Technology

- Added a 25-seat NComputing lab at Radney Elementary School
- Implemented a mobile app for the Alexander City School System
- Upgraded the ACS network filtering appliance to a Sophos ES 1100
- *Purchased the acsk12* domain name, which allowed all students in grades 7-12 to be provided with their own personal email address
- Provided 290 retina display iPads with Otter Box Defender cases to all 9th grade students at BRHS
- Installed a Meraki managed wireless network, allowing the management of all devices from a central location
- Installed a sound system and accompanying wireless microphones in the Central Office Boardroom
- Installed a presentation system, including a ceiling-mount projector and a presentation station, in a special education classroom at BRHS
- Installed a 68-inch Smart Interactive Board in a kindergarten classroom at JPES
- Installed a robotics lab at ACMS, which included 20 desktop computers and robotics software
- Purchased and implemented the FileWave mobile device management system to be used in iPad management and app distribution
- Completed infrastructure upgrades at BRHS to allow the potential of utilizing 1 GB bandwidth

## Transportation

- Completed 22 daily routes covering 533 miles daily
- Transported more than 2300 students daily by bus
- Professional training completed by bus drivers on the topic of positive interactions
- Received High-Quality Citation from ALSDE for bus fleet having less than 10% deficiencies





**Mrs. Ellen Martin**  
Director of Elementary  
Schools

# Curriculum and Instruction

**Dr. Beverly Price**  
Director of Secondary  
Schools



- Received \$365,000 in funding from the Alexander City Council for expanding the K-12 fine arts program
- College and Career Ready Standards Implementation Teams participated in Alabama State Department of Education quarterly meetings for mathematics, English language arts, and social studies
- Continued to participate in AMSTI and TEAM Math professional development
- Documented 8,298 hours of professional development by ACS employees
- Continued Document-Based Questioning in grades 5–12
- Administered *Standardized Test of Assessment* (STAR) formative assessments in reading and mathematics to students in grades K-12
- Administered *Global Scholar Achievement Series* (grades 3-8) for pre and post test
- Administered *Performance Series* (grades 7–10) for universal screenings
- Purchased over \$110,000 in social studies textbooks for grades 6–12
- Implemented project-based learning strategies
- Began implementation of Apple TV in classrooms
- Implemented standards-based lesson plans
- Implemented the *Instructional Toolkit*
- Began implementation of strategic teaching and whole-brain teaching strategies at the secondary level

## Student Assessment

- Administered *ACT Aspire* in Reading, Math, English, Science and Writing (Grades 3-8)
- Administered *ACT Explore* (Grade 8)
- Administered *ACT Plan* (Grade 10)
- Administered *ACCESS for English Language Learners* and *Alternate ACCESS for English Language Learners*
- Administered *ACT+ Writing* (Grade 11)
- Administered *ACT WorkKeys* (Grade 12)

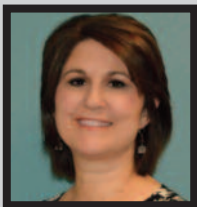
- Implemented *Project Lead the Way* in STEM classes (grades 7-8)
- Implemented essential and big questions into ACMS history curriculum
- Implemented writing, speaking, and listening standards in English, science, and history classes at ACMS as students completed research papers
- Provided teachers (K-2) math professional development on a monthly basis with the math instructional coach
- Utilized *Instructional Coaching Cycle* at JPES, including model lessons, co-teaching, observations, debriefs, and reflection
- Provided math enrichment for advanced students
- Used *Stride Academy* as a supplemental online resource for practice, tutoring, and intensive daily intervention,
- Implemented *ABE* behavior intervention curriculum
- Created local CCRS pacing guides
- Constructed local PowerPoint resources to be used with *Reading Street* reading program (K-2)
- Participation in Ron Clark Academy active engagement training
- Administered *DIBELS* (Grades K-3)
- Administered *Alabama Alternate Assessment* (Grades K-12)

## Grants

- Awarded an *Alabama Council on the Arts* grant of \$1,050 for K-6 students and local daycares to attend the *Educational Theatre* performance of *Pinocchio*
- Awarded a \$6,000 grant from Coosa Valley Soil and Water used to build a greenhouse and eight raised-bed gardens at BRHS
- Awarded a Dependent Care Grant for After the Bell
- Awarded a Pre-K grant

## Other

- Dental screening, sponsored by local dentists, offered for all students in grades K-12
- Provided professional development for 13 new teachers throughout the year



## SPECIAL SERVICES

**Mrs. Kristi Boone, Director**

### Gifted Education Services

- Served 267 students in grades 1-12
- Served 152 students in grades 7-12 through indirect gifted services such as Honors Classes, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and ACCESS coursework
- Served 115 students in grades 3-6 through direct instruction by a gifted education specialist and two two students in grades 1-2 through indirect gifted services

### Direct Special Education Services

- Special education services provided to 461 students with disabilities (ages 3-21)
- Provided special education services to 19 Pre-K students in various Headstart and daycare programs
- Speech/Language Impairment services provided to 78 students

- All remaining students with disabilities are served based upon various exceptionalities.
- Students with exceptionalities served by 27 special education teachers and nine paraprofessionals

### 504 Services

- 504 Building Coordinator designated for each school
- Fifty-five students serviced through a 504 Plan

### Nursing Services

- Individual school nurse assigned to each school to meet the health-care needs of students, faculty, and staff
- Three Registered Nurses and two Licensed Practical Nurses
- BRHS Registered Nurse, Melanie Sharpton, led effort to establish ACS as first school district in Alabama with Anaphylaxis Preparedness Program.



# ***"WE ARE THE WILDCAT FAMILY"***





# ***Guiding Principles of the Alexander City Schools***

## **Purpose – WHY we exist as an organization**

The PURPOSE of the Alexander City Schools is to provide students with a quality educational experience that fosters a productive and successful life.

## **Vision – WHAT we want to achieve as an organization**

The VISION of the Alexander City Schools is to produce graduates that are successful and empowered to compete globally based upon their own unique talents and interests.

## **Mission – HOW we want to achieve our vision**

The MISSION of the Alexander City Schools is to provide a safe and inviting learning environment with high expectations for ALL, while focusing on the development of the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

## **Core Values/Beliefs – WHAT we stand for & HOW we behave as an organization**

1. Student-Centered Focus
2. High Expectations for All
3. Respect for All
4. Safe, Positive, and Nurturing Learning Environment
5. Equity for All
6. Well-Trained, Highly Qualified, and Professional Staff
7. High Character and Integrity
8. Caring, Compassionate, and Courteous
9. Openness and Transparency

## **Motto – High Expectations & Success for ALL**

## **System Goals**

1. We will provide a high-quality, rigorous academic experience that is standards-based, addresses the whole child, reaches all students, and meets or exceeds all accountability standards.
2. We will provide a safe, positive, and nurturing learning environment for our students.
3. We will provide teaching and learning resources necessary for the success of our students.
4. We will expect every student to graduate and each graduate to be well prepared for success and leadership in his/her chosen path according to his/her own unique talents and interests.
5. We will provide a professional, accountable, and highly qualified staff, who is committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders in order to provide an exceptional educational experience.



### **JIM PEARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Jamie Forbus, Principal  
 Mrs. April Neese, Assistant Principal  
 Grades: Pre-K – 2  
 1240 Scott Road  
 Alexander City, AL 35010  
 256-234-8625  
[www.alexcityschools.net/jp/](http://www.alexcityschools.net/jp/)



### **NATHANIEL H. STEPHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ms. Kim Smith, Principal  
 Mr. Keonn Nettles, Assistant Principal  
 Grades: 3-4  
 851 Laurel Street  
 Alexander City, AL 35010  
 256-234-8631  
[www.alexcityschools.net/ss/](http://www.alexcityschools.net/ss/)



### **WILLIAM L. RADNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Andrew Caves, Principal  
 Mrs. Ashley Kean, Assistant Principal  
 Grades: 5-6  
 140 Allison Drive  
 Alexander City, AL 35010  
 256-234-8636  
[www.alexcityschools.net/wr/](http://www.alexcityschools.net/wr/)



### **ALEXANDER CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Mr. Reginald Clifton, Principal  
 Mrs. Tracie Blakely, Assistant Principal  
 Grades: 7-8  
 359 State Street  
 Alexander City, AL 35010  
 256-234-8660  
[www.alexcityschools.net/ms/](http://www.alexcityschools.net/ms/)



### **BENJAMIN RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL**

Dr. Anthony Wilkinson, Principal  
 Mr. Tracy McGhee, Assistant Principal  
 Mrs. Kelli Kelly, Assistant Principal  
 Mr. Evan Blair, Assistant Principal  
 Grades: 9-12  
 225 Heard Blvd.  
 Alexander City, AL 35010  
 256-234-8611  
[www.alexcityschools.net/bj/](http://www.alexcityschools.net/bj/)

