

## SELMA HIGH FACULTY CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS



SHS Principal Alexander, Mr. O'Neil, presenter

The staff at Selma High School enjoyed a two-and-a-half-day workshop sponsored by Selma City Schools and the Flippen Group called "Capturing Kid's Hearts." The theme, "If you have a child's heart... you have a child's mind," was the focus of the workshop.

The presenter, Mr. O'Neil, enthusiastically engaged the administrators, faculty and staff, as he informed them of the goals and purpose of the workshop.

Sessions included developing social contracts, leadership and defining leadership roles and being quality leaders, growing groups, Empowerment and so much more. Realizing that great leaders excel, Mr. O'Neil introduced and explained the EXCEL Model for developing great leaders.

The group was actively engaged in the introduction of exciting activities which could easily be utilized in the classroom, such as Good Thing, meeting and greeting others, communicating through messages and listening, affirmation and dealing with behavior. These strategies/techniques shared will result in making the culture and climate of the classroom setting inviting to learners.

## Sophia P. Kingston Elementary School

### "Teaching Beyond the Classroom"



This year's theme at Sophia P. Kingston Elementary School is "Transforming Learning Beyond Boundaries." The school's faculty and staff experienced a firsthand account of learning beyond boundaries during Institute Week.

The faculty and staff at Sophia P. Kingston took a field trip on Friday, August 5, 2016 to tour the communities currently being served by the school. This tour was planned to enhance the faculty's understanding of

our students and their daily challenges, as well as, develop a greater sense of community. As one faculty member stated, "The experience was profound!" The flyers for Kingston's *Back-to-School Social* were also distributed during the tour which provided a meet and greet opportunity for students, parents, and the community.

## Byrd Butterflies are Back to School!



The Byrd Butterflies are flying to new heights this year. This week we welcomed all our new prekindergarten and kindergarten students.

We also welcomed our new principal Dr. Brown. Our focus this year is to shift our culture and climate to improve student learning. Have a great year!

Banish  
Recurring  
Inequities,  
Divisions,  
& Gaps  
in Education

# THE BRIDGE

AN EXCITING NEW YEAR!

Selma City Schools System Newsletter

August 2016

(Complete E-newsletter available at [selmacityschools.org](http://selmacityschools.org))



## TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dr. Angela Mangum, Superintendent

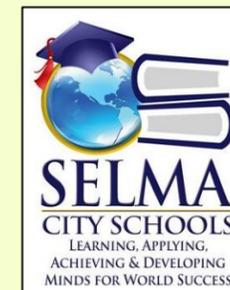
It is with great anticipation and excitement that I welcome everyone to the 2016-2017 school year! As we begin a new school year filled with hope, promise, and a vision of success for all students, let us forge new and stronger partnerships in their support. Through working together and forming

alliances on behalf of students, the possibilities for success in our district is limitless. The district's theme, "**Together We Rise**" will remind us that we must come together as a school district and community for students to thrive because they are the most accurate reflection of us and our hope for a bright future.

Tremendous strides were made during the previous school year. I would like to take this time to sincerely thank the Selma City School administrators, teachers, support staff, families, and community partners for their efforts rendered on behalf of students. A few of their accomplishments are listed below.

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- **Increased graduation rate** from 80% to 89% (currently).
- **14% increase in DIBELS scores** (students who are ready to learn to read) for students who attended Byrd in kindergarten.
- **Grants** totaling \$1,219,559.29.
- Over **\$5.8 million** facilities energy system upgrade, a cost neutral initiative.
- **Advance Placement (AP) classes** starting 2016-2017.
- 6-12 Grade **Reading and Math Intervention Program** implemented to help students who are below grade level.
- A formal **Advisory Program** will be implemented to address the socio-emotional well-being and career preparedness of students in 6-12 Grade starting 2016-2017.
- Central Office administrators who serve as **district liaisons** work closely with schools and are on school campuses weekly.
- **Summer Learning Initiative** - all students in Grades K-8 received a bag full of books and learning activities to promote summer learning.
- Implemented an **ACT Prep Initiative** to help prepare students for the ACT.
- First SCS planned and implemented, **Professional Development Summer Conference**.
- **Back-to-School Bash** (2015-2016 and 2016-2017) - free uniforms, school supplies, snacks, fun, and information about community services and schools within the district.
- **African American Studies classes** will be offered at SHS starting 2016-2017.



Clark summer enrichment program students at McWane Science Center in Birmingham



Byrd Butterflies ready for an awesome school year.



Knox teachers are busy planning innovative lessons

## TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dr. Angela Mangum, Superintendent



This year, we will continue to focus on improving the culture and climate of the district in addition to our instructional focus of delivering highly effective instruction through the use of strategic teaching and Webb's Depth of Knowledge model. In addition, three additional district priorities have been added and are listed below. Have an enjoyable and productive 2016-2017

school year. **Together We Rise!**

### 2016-2017 Priorities

#### 1. Improve Student and Staff Attendance Rate

#### 2. Develop Social/Emotional Intelligence and Career Preparedness

- Daily Advisory Program (Pre-K-12), Character Education (K-12), and Bully Prevention Program

#### 3. Enhance Literacy Skills

- Require students' use of formal English and speak in complete sentences
- Writing portfolios for each student (Prek-12)
- Scheduled library visits minimum of 3 times per 9 week period (Pre-K-12)

## SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



This summer, nearly one hundred teachers and leaders attended the very first Selma City Schools Summer Conference at Selma High School and the George P. Evans Reception Center. The conference was organized and facilitated by our dedicated instructional coaches. The instructional coaches, district leaders, teachers, and outside consultants provided two full days of training. Several sessions were offered on topics that have a high priority in the district and are essential to effective teaching and learning to include strategic teaching, classroom management, and response to instruction.

The Central Alabama Regional Education Inservice Center co-sponsored the third day of the conference, which was a full day workshop entitled "Turning High-Poverty Schools into High-Performing Schools". Dr. William Parrett, of Boise State University, guided school and district teams from Selma City, Dallas County, and Perry County in discussions and activities that focused on serving working-class families and families living in poverty. The conference was a huge success with aspirations to be even bigger and better next year!

## CLARK ELEMENTARY



This year the focus of Clark Elementary School's summer enrichment program was STEM. Throughout the program, the children were engaged in various technological and mathematical activities that provided each of them with a foundation to understanding STEM. The McWane Science Center in Birmingham, AL provided the children a chance to explore creative hands-on science and engineering exhibits. It also

allowed the students to make a connection to what they had learned this summer.

## SOD'S MULTIPLICATION STAIRS



In an effort to improve students' math fluency, the School of Discovery has installed multiplication facts on all stairs within the building. "The idea is for the students to be consistently exposed to math to help increase their computational skills," said Cicely Curtis, principal of the School of Discovery.

"Students' education should extend beyond the classroom, and because the students use the stairs daily, this is an excellent way to provide them with an additional opportunity to learn." The multiplication stairs have already impressed the students, parents, teachers, and members of the community.

Tykerria Bethel, an SOD student, said that the stairs are helpful. "People who don't know their multiplication facts can look at them on the stairs. It's wonderful."

## R. B. HUDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY COOKOUT



"Creating a Culture of Excellence in Character and Academics" is the theme for the R. B. Hudson Bulldogs this year. Students have the opportunity to select classes from several electives including: Spanish, Dance, Yearbook, ACT Prep, Creative Writing, Theater and Drama, Band, Choir and Music Appreciation. We look forward to a rewarding school year.

The faculty and staff of R. B. Hudson Middle will be taking a **bus ride** to the communities of the students we serve **Monday, August 15, 2016 from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** In meeting the parents of our students, we will be passing out flyers inviting all to come to our "non-traditional" Open House.

We will have a **COMMUNITY COOKOUT Monday, August 29, 2016 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.!** **Our very own Coach Davis and Coach Evans will grill for the community.** Please come out and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and water/soda with the R. B. Hudson family.

## SELMA CITY SCHOOLS GIFTED STUDENTS HELP WITH COMMUNITY NEED



The Selma City Schools Gifted Students sold purple wrist bands to help address a great need in the Selma/Dallas County area. They raised and donated \$300 to the Dallas County Sheriff's Department for the Alzheimer's Outreach Group. This money was used to help purchase a drone that will be used by the Dallas County Sheriff's Office to assist in locating patients with Alzheimer's and Autism. Dallas County Sheriff's Officers expressed their gratitude to students for helping with this potentially life-saving project. Student Brianna Miles is pictured with Dallas County Sheriff's Office personnel Sherriff Harris Huffman, John Treherne, and Scott Haskell.