

## Students at work!

▪ SEE P13 / SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

P2 / SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE P8 / FACILITIES

P3 / OPERATIONS OFFICE P9 / TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

P4 / ACCOUNTS PAYABLE P13 / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

P6 / ACCOUNTING



# The Magnum Memo

Division News from Mobile County Public Schools' Central Office



The Facilities Division currently has 12 school reroof projects underway, which ensures students and school employees have the best possible learning environments in which to achieve success. Contractors are making great progress at all schools, including Blount (above) and Causey (right). To learn more about ongoing Facilities projects, see page 8.



## Newsletter to help divisions and departments share good news

As part of Superintendent Chresal Threadgill's three major areas of focus for employees - working together as a team; telling our own story; and letting the world know we are creating greatness - The Magnum Memo is a monthly newsletter that will feature news from all MCPSS departments and divisions. Each department or division will be featured on a quarterly basis. Department/Division heads will be contacted one month prior to publication to provide information for the newsletter. Questions? Email Joy McGough at [jmmcgough@mcpss.com](mailto:jmmcgough@mcpss.com). Special thanks to the MCPSS Department of Communication for use of their photos.



# New role for long-time employee

In November 2021, Ms. Marsha Smith became the new receptionist in the building that houses the Superintendent's Office, Business Division, and other departments/divisions. Thank you for being a part of #TeamMCPSS, Marsha!

**Q: What is your job title, and what tasks do you accomplish to help MCPSS operate smoothly?**

My job title is Executive Administrative Services (receptionist). I use my multitasking skills to be able to act as the point of contact between internal/external clients, parents and employees. My daily tasks are, but not limited to, answering calls from clients, parents, employees, and directing them to the correct departments, and helping wherever needed. Performing these tasks, as well as being able to listen to their requests and transfer their calls to the correct departments, helps the operational process of this office to run smoothly.

**Q: Why did you decide to join #Team MCPSS?**

I decided to join Team MCPSS because I felt like it would be a rewarding experience to be a part of an organization that appreciates their employees and treats them as being an essential part in the educational process.

**Q: What is it about your current job that you are most grateful for?**

I'm most grateful for this job to have the opportunity to work with such caring people, and to be able to use my communication skills in a way that's beneficial to the organization.

**Q: What kind of work did you do prior to your current job?**

Prior to my current job I was a Bookkeeper in the system for eight years and worked in the payroll department here at Central office for one year.

**Q: What is your educational background?**

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication with a minor in English. A Master's degree in Business Management with a Specialization in Health Care Management.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

Answer: I enjoy traveling, and spending time with my family and friends.

**Q: Do you have any special interests, hobbies or talents?**

Answer: One of my special interests is volunteering my skills to help others. I like organizing events and fundraisers for my Church youth group.



Marsha Smith

**Q: If you could improve something in Mobile County (or in the community where you live), what would it be?**

Answer: If I could improve something in my community, it would be to raise awareness about mental health. This will be done by educating the community on the importance of knowing about mental illness, coordinating mental health screening, and using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, as forums in getting people to be open-minded about mental illness.

**Q: What is something about Mobile County that you'd recommend to visitors-a restaurant, a place to visit, an activity, etc.?**

Mobile is known for its Seafood. I would advise them to Google the top 10 seafood restaurants in Mobile and surrounding areas to make their choice. Places to visit would be the USS Alabama because its an historic landmark and a memorial to many, and the beautiful beaches on the Gulf Coast. Mobile is also the state's only saltwater fishing port city. This would be a great activity for the whole family, because our fishing adventure is unbeatable.

Finally, I would highly recommend visitors visit the Mobile Carnival Museum which is dedicated to Mardi Gras. This will enlighten them to the history and traditions of Mardi Gras. After visiting the Museum, they should mark their calendar for the upcoming Mardi Gras season and make this one of their activities when visiting Mobile, Alabama, where the original Mardi Gras was held. "Laissez les bons temps rouler!"

# Executive Secretary also works for Alabama Army National Guard

Ms. Tiffany Massey joined #TeamMCPSS in October 2021 as Executive Secretary to Deputy of Operations, Mr. Ernest Scarbrough. Mr. Scarbrough reports that she is a major asset to him and the divisions/departments he oversees. Welcome, Tiffany!

**Q: What is it about your current job that you are most grateful for?**

The ability to work with the wonderful and talented employees throughout the Operations department. So many have helped me in the transitioning of taking on this new position and I am lucky to work with an amazing group of individuals who support each other.

**Q: What kind of work did you do prior to your current job?**

I spent seven years as an active-duty soldier serving in New York, with two deployments to Afghanistan. When I left active-duty I became a Department of Defense Civilian working for the Strategic Plans Division in U.S. Army Europe, located in Germany. Most recently I worked for a small school district in Texas as an Administrative Officer for the Instructional Services Division.

**Q: What is your educational background?**

I have a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, and I just completed my first year in my graduate program where I am obtaining a Master's in Business Administration with a specialization in HR.

**Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I'm a single mom with two wonderful little boys, therefore, my spare time is filled with watching Encanto on repeat, while playing and laughing with them. When I do get some alone time, I find myself reading a good book, painting, or taking unplanned naps on the couch.

**Q: Do you have any special interests, hobbies, or**



*Tiffany Massey*

**talents?**

I am still in the Army and work for the Alabama National Guard. I am working on becoming fluent in American Sign Language. I have always had a passion to learn and have been taking classes.

**Q: What do you like about living in Mobile?**

I grew up in Semmes and graduated from Mary G. Montgomery. I have been blessed to have traveled and lived in amazing places, but nothing beats coming back home. I have my support system here, filled with my beautiful family and amazing friends.

---

## "I have been

blessed to have traveled and lived in amazing places, but nothing beats coming back home. I have my support system here, filled with my beautiful family and amazing friends."

- Tiffany Massey, Executive Secretary to the Deputy of Operations

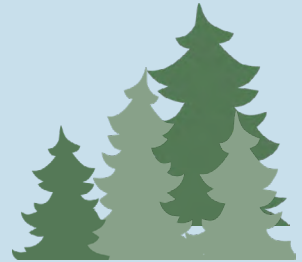
---

## Accounts Payable

### Accounts Payable

February 2022

#### Look for your February 2022 Aging report!!!!



Accounts Payable is currently in the process of conducting a Mardi Gras close. Each cost center should have now received an aging report with an instruction cover page for review.

Up next will be the school year-end close in late April and May, then the final Fiscal Year End closing in August and September. Remember to send in your signed purchase orders when you receive materials and services, and forward any invoices related to central office purchase orders to accounts payable for processing!

Accounts Payable wants to make sure you have the tools you need to easily and accurately submit your travel requests, and upon return submit your reimbursement requests with ease.

Visit the MCPSS website, under Business Division, Accounts Payable for a step by step instructional video for completing your travel forms. You can also find detailed Board Approved travel policy and procedures in the same section.

The travel process has been streamlined and is now completely paperless –from your initial request for approval to the very end when you submit your reimbursement request upon your return. If you need assistance please call 221-4438 and we can help walk you through it.

*For Prepaid items like Hotels and Registration, please submit approved and signed purchase orders to Accounts Payable in advance of your travel date. Checks are printed on Tuesday and Thursdays of each week. Cut off time is 10:30 a.m. on those days.*



#### PLAN AHEAD!

Remember to Plan ahead !

Traveling requires timely planning for approvals and prepaid expenses. The Board policy recommends that planning should begin at least 45 days in advance.

#### Travel Tips

- All trips with estimated expenses over \$600.00 must be board approved before traveling.
- While traveling, remember to save detailed food receipts showing itemized listing of purchase.
- Remember that you may be reimbursed for tipping up to 15% of the subtotal for your meal.
- The maximum reimbursement per day for meals is \$75.00.
- If the conference provides a meal, you are not eligible for reimbursement if you choose to go elsewhere for that meal.
- Alcoholic beverages are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Snacks and coffees that are not part of a meal are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Remember to secure two proofs of attendance while at your conference or PD:
  - one proof must be a conference agenda
  - the second proof can be a badge, certificate of attendance, or sign in sheet.



#### AP Staff

- Chuck Harben 221-4437 Supervisor
- Shelia Grayson 221-4466  
(Construction, Contracts, W)
- Gwen Harris 221-4464 Utilities, F, T
- Nikki Littles 221-4439 Child Nutrition
- Jadice Mitchell 221-4442 A-E and X
- Dan Sellers 221-4441 G-N and Y
- Michelle Smith 221-4440 O-S, U-V, Z



## Employee Profile

# 21 years as a vital member of #TeamMCPSS

**M**y name is Shelia Grayson and I am a native of Mobile and a graduate of Murphy High School. In August of 1984 I left Mobile to move to Alexandria, Virginia, for a position at the First Virginia Savings and Loan as a Customer Service Rep. This is where my career in Accounting and Finance began.

After two years in Virginia, I moved to College Park, Georgia, in September of 1986, where I worked at Georgia Pacific at their headquarters in the Accounting Department as an Accounting Clerk. While in Georgia I lived both in College Park and Riverdale, Georgia, for 14 years.

In December of 2000 I moved back to Mobile, and in October 2001, I started my position at the Mobile County School System. I am going into my 21st year with the system.

I am a member of Nazaree Full Gospel Church on the Beltline.

In my spare time I enjoy reading and studying the Bible, shopping, playing word games and doing puzzles, watching old-time westerns and traveling. My husband Howard and I have been married for 22 years, and don't have any children.

I enjoy working in the Accounts Payable department, where I have had the opportunity to work three different positions in the department. I have worked the Alphabet



Shelia Grayson

vendors, processed the Utilities, and in my current position I process Contracts, Facilities and our Miscellaneous vendors. I give the LORD all the glory for directing my path in life and for always being there for me.



**Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Did you know that you can help students in need while you declutter your home?

Introducing...  
**THE GOOD SAMARITAN DONATION PROGRAM**

**Here's how it works:**

- Clean out your closets and collect gently used clothing, shoes, kitchen items, furniture, housewares, tools, etc.
- Drop off items at any Goodwill retail store (Here's a list: <https://www.gesgc.org/locations/>)
- Give the donation station employee a completed "Good Samaritan Program Slip" (Click <https://bit.ly/37NHJQ5> to download).
- You will receive a tax donation receipt, and the MCPSS Social Services Department will receive vouchers that allow our students in need to purchase necessities for free at Goodwill! It's a win-win-win!

Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast GOOD SAMARITAN DONATION PROGRAM Donation Referral Card	
Date:	Donor
Church/Organization: <b>MOBILE CO. PUBLIC SCHOOLS-STUDENT SERVICES</b>	
Address: <b>P.O. BOX 180069 MOBILE, AL 36618</b>	
Phone: <b>221-4279</b>	
(Bottom section to be completed by GES Employee)	
Quantity &	Location
Description:	
Received by: _____	
(Goodwill Easter Seals Representative)	
<b>PLEASE TAKE DONATIONS DIRECTLY TO A GOODWILL EASTER SEALS RETAIL STORE</b>	
This form is to be left with the Goodwill Easter Seals employee accepting your donation. Certificates redeemable for merchandise at Goodwill Easter Seals retail stores will be issued to the church/organization listed above from the Goodwill Easter Seals Administrative Office. Thank you for your generous support.	
"Together, Empowering People Through Encouragement, Education, and Employment"	

## Employee Profile

### Former school bookkeeper now uses her experience to help current bookkeepers

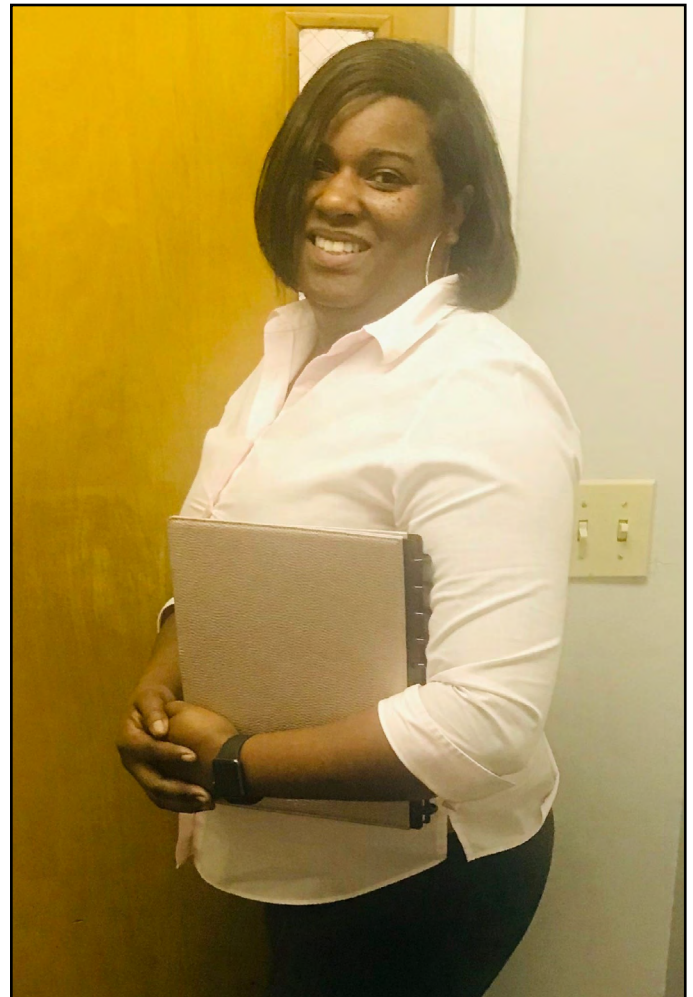
**M**y name is LaSonya Dale and I am the newest addition to the Local School Accounting Department. As a LSA Clerk, I work with several elementary schools assisting bookkeepers in their day-to-day tasks and answering any questions they might have.

I was born and raised in Mobile. I graduated from Benton Cato Rain High School. Also, I attended Faulkner University where I graduated with a Bachelor's in Business Administration.

Before working for MCPSS, I worked many years in retail and began looking for a work-life balance to accommodate my family's needs. In 2018, I started my career with MCPSS as a bookkeeper. That experience helped me tremendously in my current role of providing direct support to other bookkeepers. Working for MCPSS has been the most rewarding career choice for me.

My goal is to add my qualities to a qualified team of professionals within the LSA department and absorb as much knowledge as possible to become successful in my role.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling. My favorite place to visit is the beach.



LaSonya Dale

***Do you pay hundreds to get your taxes prepared by someone else and your total household income is \$73,000 or less? Well now, you can prepare your taxes, yourself, for FREE!***

**With this award-winning software, you can prepare your own federal and state tax returns at no cost. This software is easy to use, and the United Way of Southwest Alabama has agents available to answer any questions you may have by emailing [taxhelp@uwsa.org](mailto:taxhelp@uwsa.org)**

**This offer is exclusively FREE for employees of the Mobile County Public School System whose total household income is \$73,000 or less. Simply [Click Here](#) to file your taxes today!**

***o Login using your district email address and password  
o then scroll down to select the TaxSlayer image***

***\*\*You must use the link above or in the attached flyer to get the free preparation services. \*\****

<https://www.taxslayer.com/v.aspx?rdr=/vitafsa&source=TSUSATY2021&sidn=25098592>

**The IRS has already started processing tax returns. The deadline to file is Monday, April 18, 2022.**



# ***TIRED OF HANDING OVER YOUR MONEY?***

**Mobile County Public School System is partnering with  
United Way of Southwest Alabama to offer access to free tax preparation software directly to  
employees of MCPSS.**

- Prepare your own federal and state tax returns at no cost, using the award-winning TaxSlayer interview-based software (*total household income can not exceed \$73,000*)
- The Free TaxSlayer software can be accessed via the MCPSS's intranet [Click Here](#)
  - Login using your district email address and password
  - then scroll down to select the TaxSlayer image
- or [Click Here](https://www.taxslayer.com/v.aspx?rdr=/vitafsa&source=TSUSATY2021&sidn=25098592) <https://www.taxslayer.com/v.aspx?rdr=/vitafsa&source=TSUSATY2021&sidn=25098592>
- Convenience of preparing your return at home or work
- Save time and expense of going to a tax preparer
- Set up a private account with TaxSlayer or login to an existing account and easily E-File your return safely and securely (*\*must have an email address and prior year tax return available*)
- Tax help is available [TaxHelp@uwsa.org](mailto:TaxHelp@uwsa.org) (48 hour response )
- If uncomfortable preparing your own return, United Way and other local agencies manage several tax sites in Mobile County where IRS-certified tax professionals prepare tax returns. Find a location at <http://taxes.uwsa.org>



**Mobile County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.*



United Way  
of Southwest Alabama



## Facilities



### Stadium site prep is underway

*Contractors are hard at work getting building sites ready for the new football stadiums at Vigor and LeFlore high schools. Above and right, excavators and bulldozers prep the stadium site at LeFlore High School. These are the first of many stadium projects the Facilities team is working on.*



### Miracle League ball field fundraising is progressing

*The Miracle League of West Mobile Ball Field project is well underway. Site work began for phase one on October 25, 2021. There is currently a major fundraising event in progress to raise proceeds to fund phase two of the project. Mobile County Public Schools is proud to partner with Alabama Pecan Development Co. Inc., South Alabama Utilities, Mobile County and the Schmidt-Barton Family to make this facility available to approximately 8,300 children with disabilities to get outside and play.*



### Semmes Middle gets a new chiller to keep 1,400 students cool and comfortable

*The Facilities Department has several projects going on, including completion of a chiller change-out at Semmes Middle School. The contractor did a great job on installing the new equipment to allow school employees and students to teach and learn in a comfortable environment.*



# Baker varsity and JV teams take the gold during 2021-22 Scholars Bowl season

A new season of Scholars Bowl was launched with the first of four tournaments on October 22, 2021. The season concluded on January 28, 2022, with competitions, a luncheon, and the awards ceremony. All the tournaments took place on the main campus of Bishop State Community College, which also serves as the new sponsor and host.

Scholars Bowl is a game in which two teams compete head-to-head to answer questions from all areas of knowledge, including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, popular culture, sports, and more. We

are affiliated and receive tournament questions from the National Academic Quiz Tournament, LLC (NAQT).

Fourteen of our local and private high schools participated in the Scholars Bowl this year with Varsity and/or JV teams.

MCPSS teams swept the Varsity division, with Baker placing first, Bryant second, and Davidson third, and Baker's team had the Varsity Top Scorer, Will McCurley. In the JV division, Baker took first place, and Davidson was second. Barton Academy had the JV Top Scorer, Henry Evans.



Above left, Baker's varsity team won first place, while (above right) Bryant's varsity team took second place.



Above left, the top overall scorer for varsity was Will McCurley from Baker, and (middle) the top overall scorer for JV was Henry Evans from Barton. Right photo, Davidson's varsity team won third place.



Above left, Baker's JV team won first place, while (above right) Davidson's JV team took second place.



### Top three Hi-Q teams will earn cash awards for their schools

Hi-Q is an academic quiz competition for high school students. New Horizons Credit Union and the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) are partnering to sponsor and offer this competition to 15 of our local public and private schools. Questions are drawn from 13 subjects and based primarily on the content of standard high school courses and general scholastic knowledge.

There are three rounds of contests during the regular Hi-Q season in January. Each team competes once in each round, and three teams appear on stage in each contest. At the end of this series of 15 contests, the total points earned by each team determine the standings for the semifinals. The top-scoring team automatically becomes a participant in the championship match.

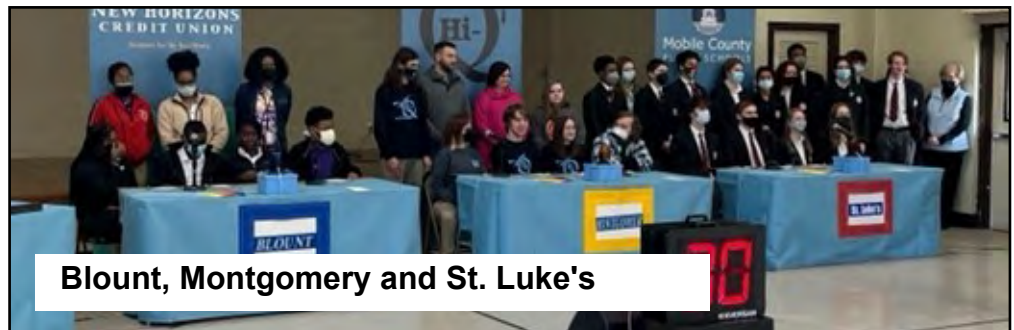
The second to seventh-place teams compete in the semifinal matches to determine two additional teams that will compete in the championship match.

The semifinals and championship matches for the 2022 Hi-Q season are set for March 7 and March 10.

First, second, and third-place teams win cash awards for their schools of \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000, respectively.



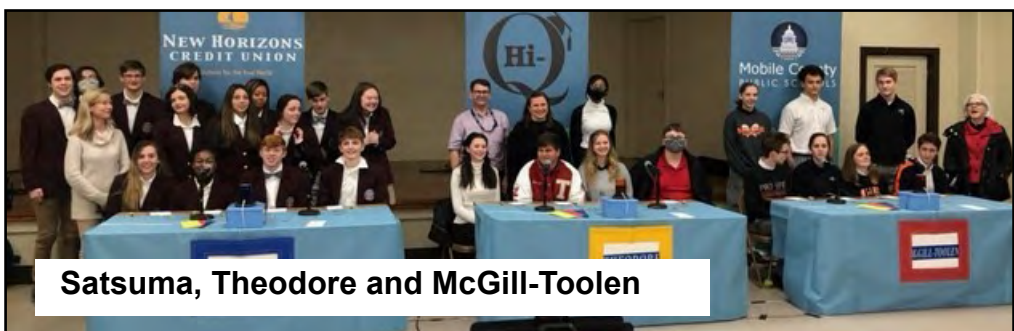
**Rain, Bryant and Williamson**



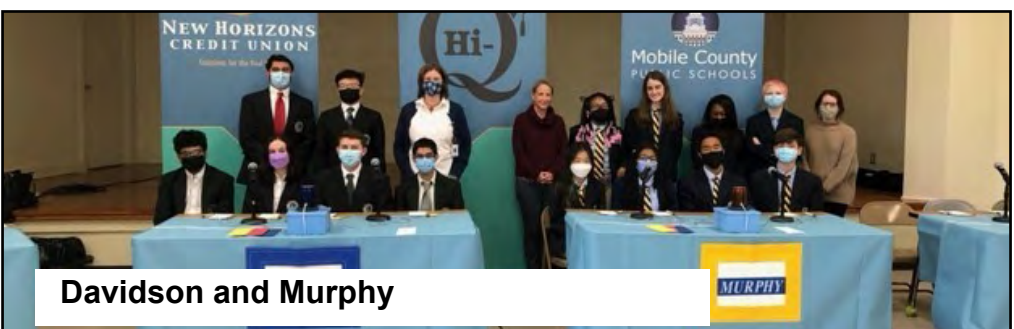
**Blount, Montgomery and St. Luke's**



**LeFlore, Citronelle and Baker**



**Satsuma, Theodore and McGill-Toolen**



**Davidson and Murphy**





*Above left, Excellence Award winner O'Rourke; Above right, Robot Skills Challenge and Judges' Award winner Mobile County Training; Right, Teamwork Challenge winners Old Shell Road and E.R. Dickson.*



## K-8 schools show off robotics skills at VEX IQ Challenge

Seven MCPSS schools participated in the MCPSS VEX IQ Challenge at Clark-Shaw Magnet School. The schools were ER Dickson Elementary, O'Rourke Elementary, Old Shell Road Magnet, Council Magnet, Phillips Preparatory, Scarborough Middle, and Mobile County Training Middle. These schools were awarded the Mission 200 grant from SCORE, for which they received robotics equipment and extensive training. In exchange, the schools had to compete in a VEX Robotics competition.

Each school was responsible for building a VEX robot, driving and programming the robot, and completing an engineering notebook to document the engineering design process.

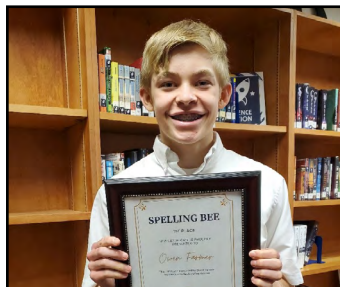
**Continued on page 12**



*Left, Design Award winner O'Rourke; above, the Council Magnet School team competes in a challenge with their remote-controlled robot.*

## Spelling Bee

# Owen is the champ for three years in a row!



From left, Owen Farmer, first; Kamryn Peters, second; and Sariah Hossain, third.

For the third year in a row, Owen Farmer of Denton Magnet School of Technology has won the Mobile County Spelling Bee.

He was recognized Friday along with Kamryn Peters from Evangel Christian School, who won second place, and Sariah Hossain from Phillips Preparatory School, who won third place.

Forty-seven students from public and private elementary and middle

schools competed in the 95th Annual Mobile County Spelling Bee. To participate in the County Bee, each of these students had to win their school-level spelling bee.

Due to COVID-19, the students competed virtually for the second year in a row, but that did not diminish their enthusiasm for learning. Students were allowed just 30 minutes to spell 25 words and to choose the meanings of

another 15 words.

Owen will advance to the state spelling bee this spring.

The Mobile County Spelling Bee is sponsored by the LendingTree Bowl and is administered by Mobile County Public Schools' Division of Teaching, Learning and Assessment.

These winners received a plaque, a cash prize, and LendingTree Bowl tickets and promotional items.

## VEX, continued from page 11

On Saturday, February 5, 2022, these schools joined in the MCPSS VEX IQ Challenge with their robots ready to win! The day began with robots being inspected to ensure they met specific criteria for the competition, while teams were practicing, preparing robots, and programming. The next few hours consisted of each team competing in robot skills, qualification matches, and judging. During robot skills, each team attempted to score as many points as possible with a driving skills match and a programming skills match. The heart of the competition is the qualification matches which entail an alliance of 2 robots from 2 different teams competing for the maximum points in 60 seconds. The top four alliances from the qualification matches competed in the finals match to determine the top winners.

During this event, teams displayed exemplary efforts, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Robotics affords all students an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity where they can excel while developing critical thinking, engineering, and problem-solving skills that will prepare them for a STEM-related career.

Magnum Memo Publication Schedule		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Facilities Academic Affairs Teaching, Learning and Assessment Accounts Payable General/Local School Accounting Workforce Development Board Services Superintendent's Office	Maintenance Human Resources Information Technology Forestry and Landscaping Instructional Technology Environmental Services	CNP Communication Distribution/Warehouse Federal Programs Health Services Payroll Purchasing Security Social Services Special Education Student Services
Group 1 - November, February, May Group 2 - September, December, March Group 3 - October, January, April		

# Thank You!

We are proud of all participants in our district-level academic competitions. We wish our winners the best of luck at the state and national levels.

The Division of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment would also like to thank our sponsors and Central Office leaders for their work: Scholars Bowl and Hi-Q (Nathaniel Smith, Academic Supervisor); Robotics (Dr. Melody Tucker, Academic Supervisor; Julie Neidhart; and Jessica Ellzey); and Spelling Bee (Renee McManus, Curriculum Specialist).



# Summer internships

## ▪ Students may apply now for paid work experience opportunities during Summer 2022

**M**obile County Public Schools Signature Academies and CTE programs encourage teachers at our high schools to incorporate real-world experiences into the courses they teach. We work to ensure that all students participate in experiential learning activities at every school.

Part of these experiential learning activities are summer internships. MCPSS Signature Academies encourage students to complete internships in their junior and senior years as a way to gain real-world experience, explore potential career paths and learn basic workplace skills.

The MCPSS Summer Internship program is for students to have the opportunity to participate in hands-on educational opportunities where they can see the importance of what they are learning in their academy courses and apply it first-hand. The internships offer students the opportunity to form connections with business and industry professionals in

their area of interest.

The MCPSS Summer Internship Program has provided opportunities for students throughout MCPSS for over 6 years. The 2021 Summer Internship program was one of the most successful years, there were over 100 students placed in various businesses around Mobile County. Thank you to the following companies that opened their doors to provide MCPSS Signature Academy students with valuable learning opportunities:

- Alabama Department of Transportation
- Batchelor's Service Heating and Air
- Battle House
- Battleship Memorial Park
- City of Citronelle
- City of Creola
- City of Semmes
- Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- District Attorney's Office
- GA West
- Ingalls Shipbuilding



- Mobile County Public Schools
- Marine Resources
- Navigator Credit Union
- Outokumpu
- ST Engineering
- Vivian's Door

Summer Internship Applications are now being accepted for current junior and senior level students. Visit one of MCPSS High School's Signature Academy page to apply.



### ▪ MCPSS Information Technology interns

Vigor High School's Information Technology Academy students Brook McGee and Devian Stallworth interned this summer with the Mobile County Public School System's IT Department. These young ladies co-hosted a talk show called Tech Talk with Brook and Dee. Devian, pictured on the left, said her favorite part of the internship this summer was networking and communicating with other interns. While Brooke, pictured on the right, said hosting the talk show was her favorite part of her summer internship. During this internship both students were able to enhance their IT knowledge by creating and editing videos and transferring and inputting data.



Davidson High School student Aidan Toomey said his internship with MCPSS IT department shaped his decision to pursue a degree in Information Technology. "I began the summer with very little knowledge about all the processes that happen when you plug your computer to an ethernet cable. While working at Semmes Middle this summer, I learned the very basics of how the internet begins in the MDF, or main distribution frame, and how an IDF must connect as the bridge between a device and the internet. After learning the hundreds of acronyms, I began to physically work inside the networking closets. The most exciting moments of this opportunity happened at Hollinger's Island when I was able to label all of the cables, unplugging everything, and organized the MDF the way I was taught. I just recently learned how to perform an RMA on a Switch, Ap or Soup that is defective. The RMA process includes extensive testing that helps determine whether the product can be fixed by Mobile County or if it must be returned to Cisco."



### ▪ Mobile County Juvenile Court interns

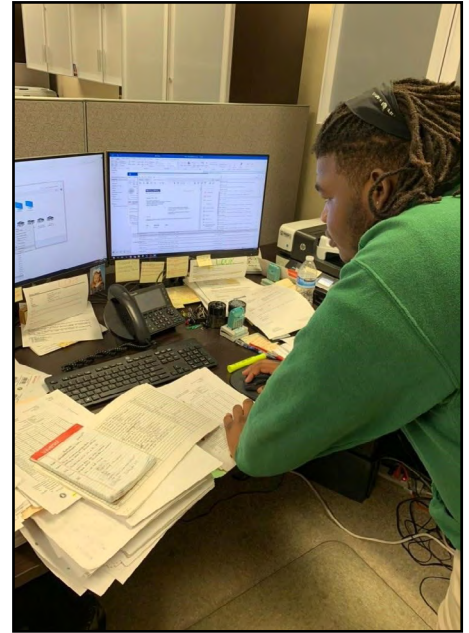


LeFlore High School's Law Academy students Nyla Reiss and Zykeria Scott were honored to experience careers that are available in their field of interest. They received a paid summer internship with the Mobile District Attorney Office. These young ladies were able to shadow and see first-hand what the legal system entails. We are so proud of them and wish them well on their journey after high school.



### ▪ Alabama Department of Transportation interns

Vigor High School's Information Technology Academy students have been able to intern in several companies through the MCPSS Summer Internship program. Students are taking what they have learned in their IT Academy courses and applying it in a real-world setting. Jaden Clemons and Remona Campbell are putting the skills they learned at Vigor's Advanced Information Technology Signature Academy to good use this summer in the MCPSS Summer Internship Program. They have been interning with the Alabama Department of Transportation, where they are troubleshooting, updating software and enhancing the storage and memory of department computers.



### ▪ Batchelor's Service and Air Conditioning intern

Dante Roe of Baker High School interned with Batchelor's Service and Air Conditioning for the 2021 Summer Internship Program. He had several duties that included loading, maintaining inventory, assisting on HVAC jobs, and learning the HVAC trade while working in the field. Batchelor's said, "Students like Dante give us great hope for the HVAC field. He has been a pleasure to have." Dante continued his employment after the summer internship ended and works for Batchelor's as part of the Work-Based Learning Program.



### ▪ Genesis Technical Staffing intern

Kevin Chapman, a senior at Baker High School, interned with Genesis Technical Staffing during the 2021 Summer. While interning with Genesis, Kevin was able to apply his knowledge gained in the Business Management Academy to work the front office. He was mentored about how to conduct an interview and review a resume. Kevin stated, "This was an eye-opening experience. I now have a better understanding of what companies look for in a candidate and I can be better prepared for an interview when I graduate."



## Workforce Development

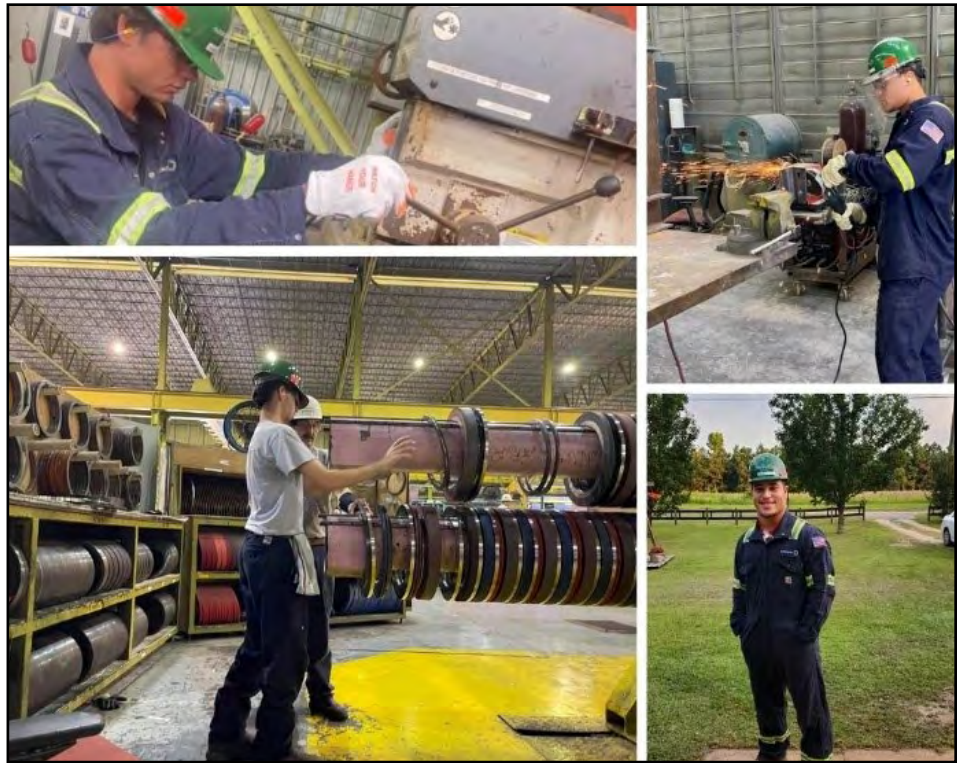
### ▪ North Mobile County internships

Summer internships through the MCPSS Academies allow students to gain experience in the industry, learn real-world job responsibilities, and possibly gain full-time employment.

Thirty Citronelle High School students participated in the internship program during the summer of 2021.

Eighteen interns worked at Outokumpu completing a range of job responsibilities from working in the melt shop to doing maintenance projects. Three of the interns participated as part of Outokumpu's College Pathway Internship in which students interested in a related degree program work in a position that prepares them for their college and career options.

G.A. West and the City of Creola hired interns from the senior class of 2021 to work in the offices completing various jobs such as answering phones; filing bank statements and traffic violations; and

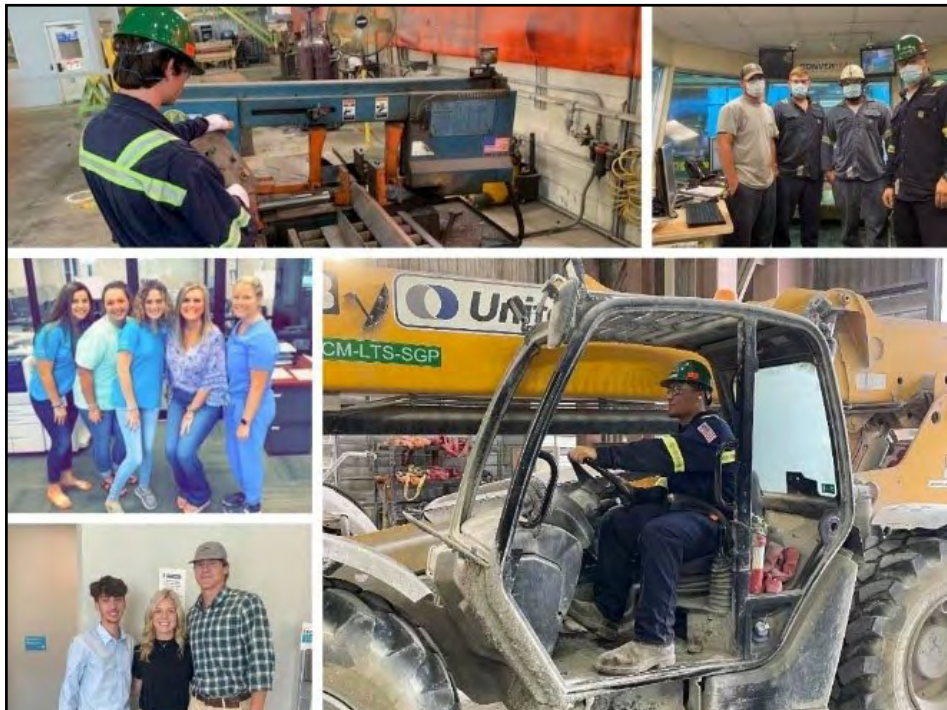


alphabetizing records, codes, and ordinances.

The City of Citronelle hired ten interns. A few of the jobs they completed were cleaning the walking trail along Main Street, improving roads, and fulfilling many other city

improvement projects.

MCPSS and Citronelle High School are thankful for all the internship opportunities that businesses offer to high school students. The lessons learned during these experiences change students' lives!





## New aviation program coming to Faulkner for 2022-23

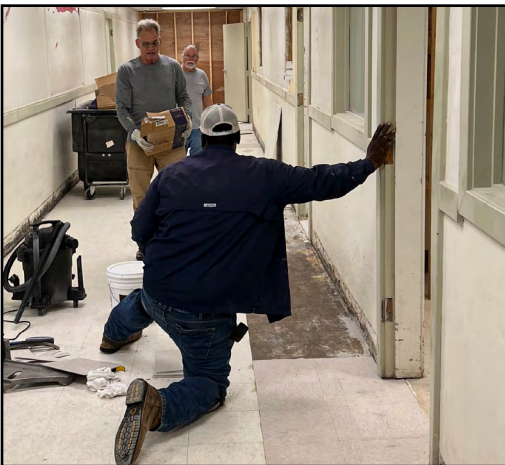


In a newly formed partnership with Airbus and Bishop State Community College, MCPSS high school students in grades 10-12 will get a chance to learn hands-on Aviation skills at T.L. Faulkner Career Tech Center. Education officials and community partners will cut the ribbon on the new training facility this fall. This comes at a critical time in the airline industry with projected employee shortages.

Mobile County is home to thousands of Airbus employees and according to William White, Principal, the new Aviation program will combine career and technical education training with rigorous academics in a simulated environment. Students can earn

dual enrollment credit and a short certificate in Aviation Technology from Bishop State Community College along with the opportunity for employment. The new Aviation program will also promote jobs in technology and manufacturing as areas of future expansion.

T.L. Faulkner Career Tech Center offers a variety of other valuable learning opportunities for high school students attending Blount, LeFlore, MGM, Murphy, Vigor, and Williamson to include Automotive Technology, Carpentry and Cabinet Making, Collision Repair Technology, Computer Electronics Technology, Cosmetology, Electrical Technology, Graphic Arts, Health Science, HVAC, Masonry, Teaching & Training, and Welding Technology.



*MCPSS Facilities and Maintenance employees have been tasked with remodeling parts of the Faulkner CTC building to accommodate the new aviation program. MCPSS has partnered with Airbus and Bishop State Community College to offer the program to students in grades 10-12.*





*On July 13, 2021, the following people gathered at the Bryant Center for a grant award meeting: (From left) MaryJo Broussard, County Agent Assistant, ACES; Joyce Nicholas, District Conservationist, Mobile NRCS; Emily Fayard, Project Manager, Gulf Coast RC&D; Larry Mouton, Assistant Superintendent Workforce Development, MCPSS; Bill Meredith, Principal, Bryant CTC; James David Malone, Mobile Farmers Federation, Forestry and Wildlife Committee Chair; Grace Jones, Horticulture/Forestry, Bryant CTC; David Sessions, District 35 State Senator; Craig Hall, Board Member, MSWCD; and Charlie Ramsey, Executive Director Gulf Coast RC&D. Not pictured: April Griffin, DAC, Mobile Soil and Water Conservation District; and Zachary Coffman, Turf and Heavy Equipment, Bryant CTC.*

## Landscaping is the icing on the cake for Bryant Center's gorgeous outdoor meeting place

A new meeting place was built at the Bryant Career Tech Center in Irvington during the 2019-20 school year, and was finished with landscaping during the 2020-21 year. However, it's not just any outdoor meeting place; it's a beautiful 60 foot by 40 foot (2,400 square feet) pavilion with a stage, benches for seating, and fully wired with lights and outlets. The facility is very impressive to see, but what makes it even more impressive is the fact that it was built and landscaped by students and teachers from Bryant CTC, with support from several community partners.

The ag construction class, led by Mr. Jeffrey Whitten, did the bulk of the work, setting and squaring the large posts. The wiring (Mr. Nealy Parker), plumbing/pipefitting (Mr. Wesley Richards), welding (Mr. Otto Lee), carpentry (Mr. Chris Rogers), and turf management (Mr. Zachary Coffman) classes all participated in the build or helped with problems along the way.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Bryant CTC Principal Mr. Bill Meredith asked the horticulture/forestry teacher, Mrs. Grace Jones, to have her students landscape around the pavilion. She took that direction to county agent assistant,

Ms. MaryJo Broussard at Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, to ask for help in coming up with a design using plants only from the National FFA Organization Nursery Landscape Competition list. (This is a list of over 100 plants that students competing in this Career Development Event must learn.) As this was happening it came to light through the school's partnerships with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Mobile Soil and Water Conservation District that Gulf Coast RC&D was still in the process of awarding grants for educational programs. At that point, with the help of Tracey Hall, the former DAC at the Mobile Soil and Water Conservation District, the paperwork was completed, and with the support of board member Craig Hall, the grant was approved, with the addition of planting trees from the FFA Forestry Tree Identification as well.

As the work began The Forestry and Wildlife Committee of Mobile County Farmers Federation donated \$250 to help The Bryant Center in their efforts. Using the landscape plan from Ms. Broussard and irrigation plan from Mr. Coffman, tools, plant material, mulch, and landscape fabric were

**Continued on page 19**



## Career Coaches' Corner

### ▪ Essential skills, mock interview preparation and mock interviews

Under the supervision of the Assistant Superintendent of Workforce Development, MCPSS has three career coaches assigned to assist middle and high school students with identifying their career interests and developing their four-year plans.

As career coaches, we work closely with Career and Technical Education teachers, Guidance and Counseling, and business and industry partners to build relationships within the educational settings, plan, organize, and implement our programs and services, while assisting students with assessments that track their interests and life goals.

Throughout the school year, we conduct a variety of essential skills' presentations and discussions, host career fairs, conduct mock job interviews and feedback, assist with resume' writing, and other activities outlined in the Alabama Career Planning System.

Our goal is to focus on the factors that support student success.



- Jemetries Thomas, MCPSS Career Coach

### ▪ Alabama Career Planning System

MCPSS career coaches use the Alabama Career Planning System, powered through Kuder, as a tool and a resource to reach students in the classroom and help them to gain a better understanding on various career pathways. Each year students in middle and high school can access the Alabama Career Planning System to help plan for their future academically or in the workforce. Students work with their school counselor, career coach, and in Career and Technical Education courses to complete 4 year education plans starting in the 8th grade, career interest assessments each year, and complete a resume and cover letter for their senior portfolios.

A recent addition to the Alabama Career Planning System is the ability for students to prepare for entrance exams and AP test preparation. The site offers this excellent resource to students starting in the 8th grade through 12th grade. Students can take practice tests to see where they place and from that point lessons are created to help improve their studies and test scores. Courses available to students include: SAT prep, ACT prep, ASVAB, Accuplacer, PSAT, GED practice, and AP test preparation. Students will be able to improve their confidence in these areas and better prepare for success when testing. Career coaches are available and ready to walk students and teachers through utilizing the resources available to them through the Alabama Career Planning System to help our students become college and career ready.



- Savannah Gillman, MCPSS Career Coach

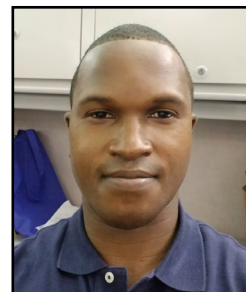
### Landscaping, continued from page 18

ordered and installed. The pavilion is now landscaped and looks like a more natural part of the environment, and most importantly will provide years of quality hands on instruction to students to fuel or spark interest in agriculture. We estimate that 2,000 students per year from Mobile County Public Schools will be able to enjoy and learn from our Native Tree and Shrub Installation, Gulf Coast RC&D grant project.

### ▪ Student employment

One exciting aspect of being a Career Coach is assisting students in becoming employed. Through my experience, student employment is an integral part of education and professional development for students. As Career Coaches we assist students in developing professional Resumes and Cover-letter, navigating the employment process, and interview preparation. These things are instrumental in giving our students the best opportunity to be competitive in our growing job market.

- Darwin Bolden, MCPSS Career Coach



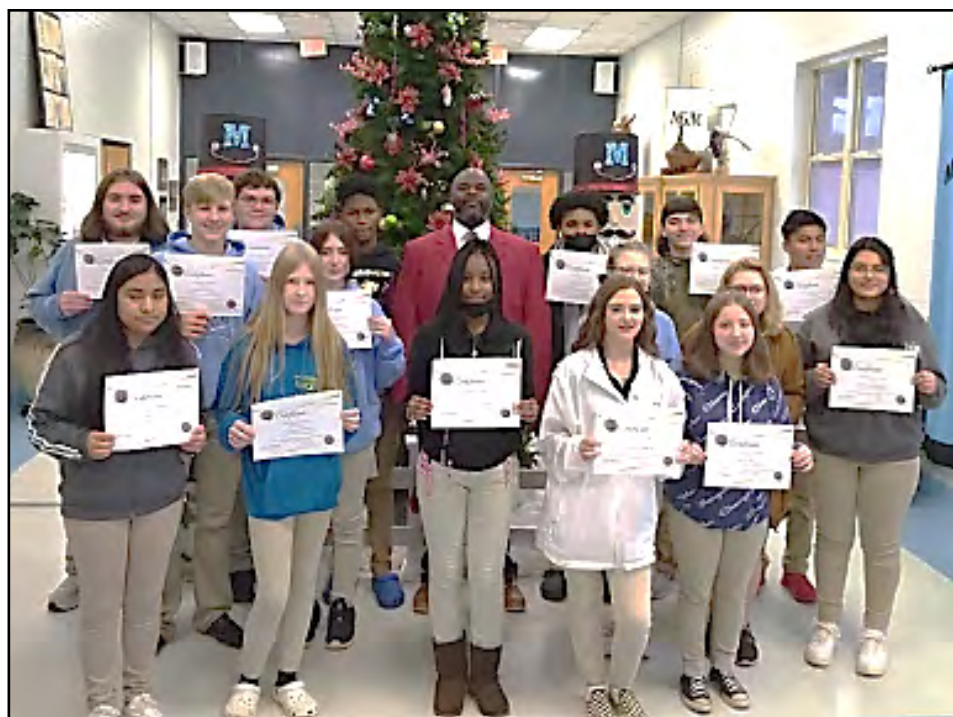
# Vikings excel in global coding competition

Twenty students successfully completed the Codementum International Coding Competition at Mary G. Montgomery High School recently. The objective of the Codementum Coding Competition is to raise awareness for students who have an interest in coding education.

Competitors in all grade levels across the world participate in this event. Coding is an in-demand skill used in almost every industry. Whether you envision a career as a programmer, a game developer or a data scientist, coding is a valuable skill in today's global economy. Some coding careers are as follows: Computer programmer, web developer, app developer and data scientist. Salaries can range from \$60,000-\$101,750 per year. Some required coding skills include knowledge of Java, Python, and math along with communication, analytical, creative, and logical thinking skills.

Under the academic guidance of Ms. Sheryl Stroud, who teaches AP Computer Science under the CTE Information Technology Program, students are provided with the academic tools necessary to become the next generation of coding professionals.

The students who placed in this competition include Joshua Barnes, David Budlong, Isabel Juan-Thomas, Avery Kountz, Tishon Lee, Karol Lozoya, Aryana Maldonado, Joe Martinez, Makayla Mooneyham, Kevin Ortiz Bautista, Aidyn Restor, Christopher Seals, Zoe Smith, Cole Tong, Derek Walker Himes, Benjamin Walzak, Khaden Washington, Nicoria Washington, Makalah Wilharms, and Timothy Wood.





## New Health Science programs at Bryant, Rain for 2022-23

Renovations are underway and recruitment has begun for the newest Health Science programs coming to B.C. Rain and Alma Bryant high schools next school year.

Career and Technical Education is expanding Health Science program offerings on the campuses of Rain and Bryant to interested students who want to get an early start on their future career choice in health care. Our goal is to give students options once they graduate high school and it has always been Mr. Mouton's (Assistant Superintendent of Workforce Development) vision to have a Health Science program at all 12 comprehensive high schools and the 3-career tech centers.

As part of the new programs' curriculum, students at B.C. Rain can earn the Alabama Certified Nursing Assistant credential, while students at Alma Bryant can earn the Alabama Certified Patient Care Technician credential in preparation for the workforce or post-secondary education.

Health science pathways are also located at Baker, Blount, Bryant CTC, Citronelle, Faulkner CTC, LeFlore, MGM, Theodore, and Williamson high schools. Each pathway consists of a recommended 3-course sequence in a Simulated Workplace learning environment, hands-on skills, work-based learning experiences, leadership training, and the opportunity to earn a nationally recognized health care credential (C.N.A, CPCT, and EKG Technician).

MCPSS Health Science Cluster of programs are accredited by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the National Health-career Association to strengthen the educational pipeline to College and Career Readiness.



**Mobile County  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BUILD YOUR PATHWAY TO  
SUCCESS**



**Become a  
nationally  
certified  
EKG Tech.,  
CNA,  
Dental  
Assistant  
or Certified  
Patient Care  
Tech.**

**Health Science Education  
YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE**

Healthcare careers are in high demand  
and there is a need for highly trained  
and highly skilled individuals.

**LEARNING TODAY.  
LEADING TOMORROW.**  


## Workforce Development



*Denton Magnet School is among the MCPSS middle schools utilizing the We Build It Better program. Denton students are excelling as they work through the program kits.*

## We Build It Better teaches students real-world skills

Thirteen MCPSS middle schools have implemented the full We Build It Better aviation program this year. WBIB is a program that lays a foundation for students to understand the process of developing a new product and equipping them with the skills to design and create solutions to real-world industry-based challenges. The program, delivered through seven kits, introduces inventive technologies, exposes students to techniques that help build new skill sets, and promotes career awareness.

Denton Magnet School of Technology has created a positive

learning environment that has triggered engagement and curiosity in their WBIB students, who began the year learning about FOD (foreign object debris) and inventory control in manufacturing. Throughout the year, students have worked individually, and in teams, to create innovative solutions to common challenges. A few of their activities include building a

model of the Wright Brothers 1903 Flyer, using coding and 3D printers in product design, simulating the Airbus Final Assembly Line and

installing fasteners with power tools, and building circuits to power LED lights and small electric vehicles. WBIB creates a true hands-on environment where students are constantly measuring, creating, working as a team, and developing leadership skills.

