

2022: STARTING NEW!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BESSEMER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Pictured above: Students at Greenwood Elementary & J.S. Abrams Elementary are working on New STEM/STEAM projects.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

"Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings."

—Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Dear Bessemer City Family,

Happy New Year to all! It's 2022. Let's get excited about the new year and the new beginnings it offers.

Bessemer City School District had wonderful successes in 2021, and we are eager to seize the new opportunities for the benefit of our students again this year. When you've been in education as long as I have, you learn quickly that achievement takes strategy, persistence, and capturing every opportunity that comes your way.

This year, we're offering you opportunities that we believe will help you and your family reach goals academically and beyond the classroom. Read ahead for more information on a brand new parenting initiative through our Parent Engagement Department. It's designed for the unique needs of our Bessemer families, particularly during this time when we face new challenges brought by the COVID pandemic. This is an additional way we want to support you as parents.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the principal of your child's school. I hope to see you at this Wednesday's Dinner with Doc on Zoom.

Thank you,

Autumm Jeter

Dr. Autumm Jeter

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Dr. Autumm Jeter
Superintendent of Bessemer City Schools

BCS SHINING STARS!



BCS P.R.I.D.E. Honorees - December

Congratulations to our December BCS P.R.I.D.E. HONOREES

- Ms. Jacquetta Christian, Librarian at Greenwood Elementary School
- Ms. Stephanie Forrest, ELA Teacher at Bessemer City High School

Alexander Shunnarah Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to Ms. Caroline Kaiser for being selected as one of the next Alexander Shunnarah Teachers of the Month!

Ms. Kaiser was chosen out of hundreds of nominations nationwide. Her picture will be displayed on one of the billboards, and she will receive a \$500 classroom incentive for materials and supplies.



Community Partners Pink and Cultured Pearls Interest Group, Bessemer | Hoover

Thank you to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.'s Pink and Cultured Pearls Interest Group of Bessemer/Hoover. They are making a difference in our community with donations, mentoring, and educational support.

They have partnered with us several times this school year to support our scholars and schools.

New Career Option Ahead for Bessemer City Middle Students

Bessemer City Middle School is looking towards an ongoing partnership with UAB's Physician's Assistance Program.

Program Director, Dr. Tosi Gilford, brought students from the program along with a plethora of instruments for making incisions, practicing surgical procedures and working as a team.

The workshop was part of Physician's Assistant Week in the fall. But, BCMS is looking towards a continued partnership for their students.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT PRESENTS: THE PARENT PROJECT



Empowering Parents. Transforming Teens.

- ▶ Learn how to never argue with your child again!
- ▶ Prevent or intervene in alcohol or drug use!
- ▶ Improve school attendance and performance!
- ▶ Explore concrete solutions for media issues!

Date: January 18th – March 22nd, 2022

(Class meetings are once weekly)

Time: Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m./Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: via Zoom/Local Location

Prizes will be awarded based on attendance.

To sign up contact Kimbley Gaston, 205.432.3049 or kgaston@bessk12.org

Ready to feel empowered?

<https://parentproject.com/>

DINNER WITH DOC: WHAT'S NEW IN BESSEMER CITY SCHOOLS



Join Us For

DINNER WITH DOC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022
6PM - 7PM

Send your questions to BCSParents@bessk12.org

PRE-K REGISTRATION

We are now taking applications for PreK students for the 2022-2023 school year! Pre-register at this link:

<https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov>



FIRST CLASS PRE-K Alabama's Voluntary Pre-K Program PRE-REGISTRATION

- First Class Pre-K programs are accepting online pre-registration applications for the 2022-2023 school year beginning January 15th. If you need assistance with accessing the online application, contact the local school/program.
- Enrollment is open to all children four years of age on or before 9/12/22* who are residents of Alabama. (Children who are eligible for kindergarten are not eligible for pre-K.)
- Enrollees must provide a copy of the child's birth certificate. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Enrollees must provide proof of residence – either a current utility bill or copy of a lease or mortgage. (It may be uploaded into the online pre-registration site or submitted directly to the local school/program.)
- Public school system pre-k programs may have zoning requirements that determine eligibility for attending a program at a particular school. (Contact the school for attendance zone information.)
- There is no registration fee for First Class Pre-K programs.
- Upon enrollment, a child's immunization record must be provided to the school or program.
- No child will be denied participation on basis of income, sex, race, color, national origin, or disability.

Pre-Registration Dates: January 15, 2022 – March 23, 2022

Pre-Registration Application: To pre-register, go online to <https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov>.

Acceptance into a First Class Pre-K program is strictly through random drawing. Parent/Guardian does not have to be present at drawing. Email notices of acceptance status will be sent in mid-April.

Random Drawing Details

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Bessemer City Schools - 1706 5th Avenue North - Bessemer, AL 35020



PRE-K DE PRIMERA CLASE Programa de Pre-K Voluntario de Alabama REGISTRACIÓN

- Estamos aceptando solicitudes de pre-inscripción en línea para el año escolar 2022-2023 (para obtener ayuda con el acceso a la aplicación en línea, comuníquese con la escuela/programa local).
- La inscripción está abierta para todos los niños que tengan 4 años de edad en o antes del 9/12/2022* y que son residentes del estado de Alabama.
- Los solicitantes deben proporcionar una copia del certificado de nacimiento del niño (Puede descargar los documentos en la página electrónica de preinscripción o enviarlos directamente a la escuela o programa local).
- Los solicitantes deben presentar un comprobante de residencia, ya sea una factura de servicios públicos actual y una copia de un arrendamiento o hipoteca (Puede descargar los documentos en la página electrónica de preinscripción o enviarlos directamente a la escuela o programa local).
- Los programas de Pre-Kinder del sistema escolar público tienen requisitos de zonificación que determinan la elegibilidad para asistir a un programa en una escuela en particular (comuníquese con la escuela para obtener más información).
- No hay costo por registrarse en este programa.
- Al momento de la inscripción, se debe proporcionar el registro de vacunas del niño.
- A ningún niño se le negará la participación por motivos de ingreso, sexo, raza, color, origen nacional o discapacidad.

Fecha de preinscripción: 15 de enero – 23 de marzo 2022

Preinscripción aplicación: Vaya en línea a <https://prek.alaceed.alabama.gov>.

La aceptación es estrictamente a través de sorteo al azar que se llevará. El padre / tutor no tiene que estar presente en el sorteo. Las notificaciones serán enviadas no más tarde del 15 de abril.

Detalles de dibujo al azar

Fecha: Jueves, 24 de marzo de 2022

Hora: 10:00 a.m.

Sitio: Escuelas de la ciudad de Bessemer - 1706 5th Avenue North Bessemer, AL 35020

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 4TH 2PM - 6PM & SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5TH 2022 10AM - 3PM

REGISTER FREE TODAY: HBCUCF.ORG

RECEIVE MEANINGFUL INFO DIRECTLY FROM HBCU REPRESENTATIVES!

- BAND AUDITIONS
- ASSISTANCE WITH COLLEGE READINESS AND FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS
- ENGAGE WITH CURRENT HBCU STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

This event is sponsored by The RKL Education Foundation Inc and The Gwinnett Pearls of Service Foundation Inc

INFO@HBCUCF.ORG | #HBCUFORLIFE | #HBCUCF
P.O. BOX 957714 DULUTH, GA 30095





Mr. Lee Jones
Board President
District 7



Mr. Jerome Cook
Board VP
District 5



Mr. Amos Rembert
District 1



Mrs. Vera Eades
District 2



Mrs. Renna' Soles Scott
District 3



Mr. Sam Morris
District 4



Mrs. Remeka Thompson
District 6

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BOARD

They are a group of seven individuals, with different backgrounds and talents that work together for the good of the children of Bessemer City Schools. In honor of Alabama's School Board Appreciation Month, we want to pay special thanks to our wonderful school board members.

Any school board member can tell you, it's a job that follows them everywhere. Concerned parents approach them at church, the grocery store, or running other errands, and our board members take the time to listen and address them.

During these trying times of COVID-19, our board shows strength in leadership as they support the decisions and direction of the superintendent. The BCS board has not hesitated to put the safety of the students and employees first, by allowing virtual learning for students and incentives for teachers. Their commitment to educating our students and their love for the city of Bessemer are evident.

We salute our Bessemer City School District Board of Education! Thank you for all you do to make us great.



A PIECE OF BESSEMER HISTORY HAS SOLD

The historic Snitz Snider Memorial Stadium holds countless memories for many graduates of Bessemer City School District. That historic stadium is now sold. Realtor, Quentin Carter, from Barnes Associates and Realtors, speaking in a news interview with WVTM reporter, Fred Davenport, recognizes this is a major moment for his firm, and for the Bessemer Community. "Selling a piece of Bessemer's history - this is huge!" says Carter.

People have many memories of the Snitz Snider Memorial Stadium. It's where so many recall marching in the band, attending football games, and graduations.

Carter says the structure was on the market for a couple of months before it sold, and he's proud his office was the one to make it happen.

NEW WAYS TO FIGHT COVID



COVID Testing

COVID-19 Testing is more convenient than ever. In addition to outside testing sites, Bessemer City families now have these additional options:

1) FREE home kits:

The Postal Service is delivering one shipment of four COVID Tests per residential address. Enter your name, address, and email by clicking the link below to request the FREE at home COVID-19 Test.

[Click here to order your family's kits today.](#)



2) On Campus Tests in partnership with UAB.



DISTRICT EMPLOYEE TESTING

All district employees of Bessemer City Schools are invited to enroll in free, voluntary and weekly COVID-19 testing through the COVID Testing in Alabama's K-12 Schools program. Only one registration is needed to participate, participants are encouraged to return to their same testing site each week.

STEP 1: CHOOSE A TESTING SITE

- Mondays**
Westhills Elementary: 8:30AM – 10:30AM
- Tuesdays**
Abrams Elementary: 9AM – 11AM
Greenwood Elementary: 9AM – 11AM
- Wednesdays**
Bessemer City High School: 9:30AM – 11:30AM
- Thursdays**
Bessemer City Middle School: 8:30AM – 10:30AM
Jonesboro Elementary: 8:30AM – 10:30AM
Charles F. Hard Elementary: 12:30PM – 2:30PM

STEP 2: ENROLL

Visit testing.bloomhealthpartners.com/uab_adult or scan the code below. Paper consent forms will also be available on-site. This link is only for faculty, staff, and district employees.



STEP 3: RECEIVE WEEKLY TESTING DURING YOUR ELECTED SITE'S DAY AND TIME.

COVID TESTING IN ALABAMA K12 SCHOOLS

About: The UAB School of Public Health is currently collaborating with the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Alabama State Department of Education to offer free and voluntary asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in Alabama K-12 schools. This program is fully funded by \$147 million by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Federal Funds. Learn more: sites.uab.edu/covidalk12.

Screening services provided by: **Bloom**
UNSTOPPABLE IS POSSIBLE.™

January Vaccination Clinics

VACCINATION

COVID-19

Jefferson County
Department of Health

**VACCINES/BOOSTER SHOT
STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY
MEMBERS 5 YEARS AND OLDER**

Pfizer-age 5 and up
Moderna- age 18 and up
Janssen-age 18 and up

Monday January 24, 2022
at C.F. Hard Elementary
2801 Arlington Avenue
Bessemer, AL 35020
from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Monday, January 24, 2022
Jonesboro Elementary
125 Owen Avenue
Bessemer, AL 35020
from 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:
PARENTAL CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS (AGES 5 - 18).
You Must Bring Your Vaccination Card In Order To Receive a Booster Shot!
Vaccine is Available to Faculty, Students (ages 5 - 18), & Community members.

FOR MORE INFO:
Contact Dr. Shayia McCray,
Student Service Director
205-432-3028
www.bessk12.org
LET'S PROTECT THE COMMUNITY FROM COVID-19!

BE IN THE KNOW

Follow Bessemer City Schools on

NCM Discrimination Statement
The Bessemer City School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the New Funds and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Bernice Thomas, Section 504, and Title IX Coordinator
67516 Bessemer City, Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone: 205-432-3028 Email: tbthomas@bessk12.org