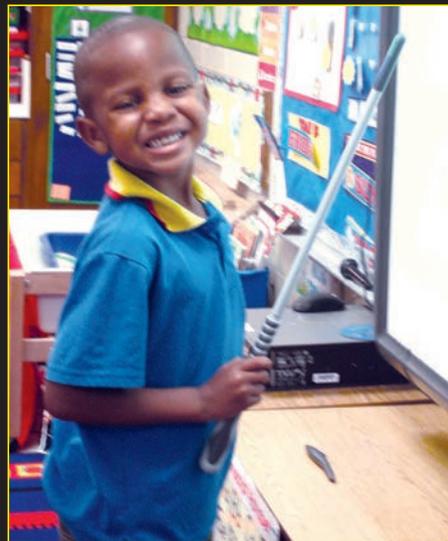


*Moving forward...A Year of Excellence!!!!*

# **THE** Talladega City Schools **CHALLENGE**

**Spring 2014**



**TALLADEGA CITY SCHOOLS...  
Preparing Students for College and  
Career Readiness through:**

21st Century Technology, Strategic Teaching Strategies,  
Small Group Instruction, Project Based Learning,  
Job Shadowing & Arts Education

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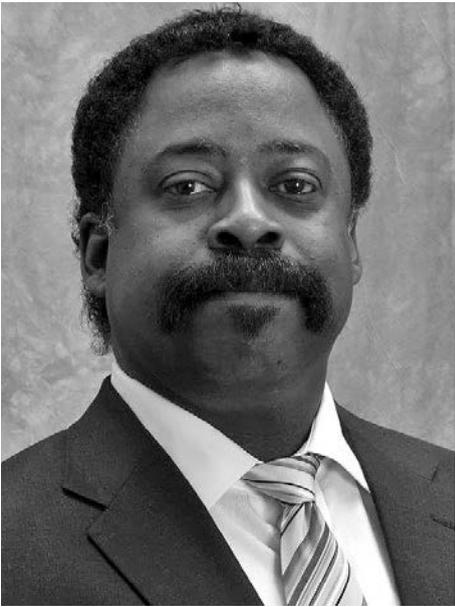
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# Retirement on the horizon after more than 40 years in Education



TALLADEGA, AL— After five years as superintendent of Talladega City Schools and more than 40 years in education, Superintendent Douglas H. Campbell announced this past January his intention to retire at the end of the 2014 school year.

Campbell said, “It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Superintendent of the Talladega City Schools. Thank you to everyone who has supported the city schools over the years.” With his retirement set to start in several months, Campbell has spent the past several weeks at our request, reflecting on items he could share with us about his 29 years of service in the Talladega City Schools and his experiences as superintendent.

Campbell started his career in the 70’s, at Alabama State University followed by eight years of service in the Opelika City Schools. In 1985 he was hired by the Talladega City Board of Education to serve as the principal of Dixon Middle School and the Director of Alternative School Services. In 1988 he was transferred to the central office as the Coordinator of Federal Programs, Special Education, 504, and Alternative School Programs. In addition to these jobs he also served as the district’s Assistant Superintendent, Technology Coordinator and Hearing Officer. Campbell has been an integral part of the district’s administrative team

and goal setting apparatus for more than 29 years.

In 2009, Campbell was appointed by the Talladega City Board of Education to serve as Superintendent. Campbell said, “When I became superintendent I was determined to redesign the district’s landscape as it relates to student performance, classroom instruction, infrastructure, and the deployment of 21st century technology throughout the district. My number one priority has always been to make sure as a district we concentrate our efforts and limited resources on improving student achievement.”

During his tenure as superintendent, Campbell has been credited with spearheading the district’s laser like focus on Pre-K education, fiscal accountability, technology, facility consolidations, infrastructure improvements and the implementation of college and career ready standards.

In response to these initiatives Campbell has:

- Written a grant and received funding to operate a coveted First Class Pre-K program at Houston Elementary.
- Established a cushion of at least three months operational funding and subscribes to the philosophy of the consolidate use of resources.
- Written several grants that have made it possible for the district to participate in the technology revolution. These grants have made it possible for the district to acquire Internet access, computers, software, and other hardware deemed necessary to have technology in the classroom.
- Merged Hal Henderson and Houston Elementary in accordance with the district’s consolidation plan. He has also established a plan to be used in the implementation of other consolidation projects whenever circumstances become favorable.
- Taken steps to fix roofs, and upgraded key H/VAC systems in accordance with the district’s capital plan.
- Installed new seats in Talladega High School’s gym
- Installed new lighting on the baseball

fields.

- Made improvement to Mary Dumas Stadium and Harwell Auditorium.
- Provided funding to schools for materials, supplies and professional development to assist them with the implementation of college and career ready standards.
- Funded labs, extended day programs and supported the use of dual enrollment programs.

Individuals who have worked closely with Campbell in the past believe his coalition-building skills have served as an invaluable force when it comes to making tough budgetary decisions. They also feel his leadership style has been a positive catalyst in pointing the district’s educational compass toward a brighter future. Campbell may be best remembered as the superintendent that oversaw a period of fiscal accountability, academic change, program expansions, school consolidations, facility upgrades, and technology enhancements. He genuinely cared about children and tried to the extent possible to do things by the book in order to ensure he treated everyone the same.

Mr. Douglas Campbell will be greatly missed by all in the Talladega City School System. We appreciate the years of dedication, commitment, and loyalty he has so graciously given to Talladega City Schools to make it a better place for our children, faculty, staff, and community. We want to wish him much happiness and success as he enters this new phase of his life! ◀



# Curriculum and Instruction...

During the year of 2010, the State Board of Education voted to adopt the new common core standards. After the adoption of the common core standards, Alabama created its own standards based on the common core standards and refer to these standards as the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. The new academic standards are designed to raise student expectations to a higher level. They outline what students should be able to accomplish in math and reading and language arts regardless of where they attend school in the State of Alabama.

Dr. Dolia Patterson, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction says, "As a result of the SDE adoption these new learning standards, this framework was utilized in establishing the goals for our curriculum and instructional programs and outlines the fundamental skills that we want our students to have in reading and math when they graduate. Alabama's college and career standards are much more rigorous than its previous standards. They are designed to help ensure that students are learning the necessary knowledge and skills needed at each grade level. These standards emphasize critical thinking and applied knowledge that we want students to take with them long after they graduate."

The implementation of the College and Career Ready Standards into our curriculum continues to be a transitional process. Even though we have utilized several programs since the adoption of the standards, we are still learning and applying different strategies to improve student performance. A College and Career Ready Implementation Team has been organized at the system level to assist in the transition process. The team consists of administrators, elementary, middle, and secondary teachers in the areas of reading/language arts and math. These administrators and teachers attend quarterly professional development training sessions provided by the SDE. During the training, resources and strategies on how to identify and understand the significant shifts in instruction are provided for the teachers.

The instructional shifts that apply to the standards in reading/language and math also result in shifts in the instructional practices. More emphasis is focused on real-world problem solving, reading and writing in every classroom, collaboration and engagement in meaningful productive classroom discussions on worthwhile content, maximizing instructional time, extended learning opportunities and formative assessments for understanding.

As a system, we have been able to purchase new textbooks in the areas of math and reading and language arts for grades K-12, to assist us with including the common core standards into our curriculum. These resources assist our teachers in teaching to the standards



as outlined in the Alabama Course of Study Standards and College and Career-Ready Standards. Curriculum pacing guides that provide an outline for teachers to use in planning instruction were developed by the teachers. Use of these pacing guides help to ensure that there is alignment between the classrooms within a school and with other schools within the system. This process helps to ensure that all children at the same grade level will be studying the same topic roughly at the same time in the year. Our teachers have also had extensive professional development training in the use of strategic teaching strategies and use these methods, as well as the strategic format to plan lessons for instruction.

Common benchmark assessments for math have been developed for our middle and high school students using GlobalScholar Achievement Series. The data from these assessments are used to monitor student performance and to provide remediation to students as needed using our Response to Intervention (RTI) process. Response to Instruction, sponsored by the State Department of Education, is one of the programs being fully implemented by our system. It is a framework that integrates core instruction, formative assessments, progress monitoring, and intervention/acceleration within a multi-tiered system to support student learning.

Our system also used the Global Scholar Performance Series. This component of the Global Scholar

assessment is a diagnostic tool that is used periodically during the school year to determine the level of students' understanding in the core academic areas and to make informed decisions regarding instruction. The diagnostic reports from these assessments may be used for differentiated instruction, to set goals for students, and to measure student progress over a period of time.

As a part of the Alabama PLAN 2020, all students are required to enter the ninth grade prepared with a four-year plan that addresses their individual academic and career interest needs. To assist the schools and the students in accomplishing this task, the ALSDE has collaborated with the Alabama Career Planning System-Kuder, Inc. to establish an electronic format for the four-year plans. This platform allows students to have access to all of the courses taught in their high school. All students in grades 6-12 have access to this comprehensive education and career planning tool. This tool allows students, parents, and educators to plan for students' future and find links between their interest and aptitudes, start planning their classes, explore careers, and research postsecondary options as early as sixth grade.

Our system has established and utilizes a comprehensive curriculum program designed to support students in achieving their academic potential while preparing them to pursue college and career-ready opportunities. ◀

# Child Nutrition Program celebrating success



Talladega City School's Child Nutrition Program Director and employees have been focused the past two years on implementing all aspects of the new federal guidelines. We have always been focused on promoting healthier lifestyles for our students and with the new standards in place we have been able to meet the guidelines and provide a healthy, yet appetizing breakfast and lunch for our students each day. We created our menus meeting the USDA guidelines during school year 2012/13 and received our 6 cent certification. Starting in April and May last year, through manager meetings, we discussed and implemented a few changes to the menus to make them more appetizing for students, but still following all the guidelines of calories, fat, carbohydrates, and sodium as well as including whole grains. This has been a collaborative effort through the Child Nutrition Director, Child Nutrition Managers and workers, and Principals. Our students have gradually embraced healthier food choices and are now accustomed to the delicious meals offered each day.

Houston Elementary School was recognized as a HUSSC school last year (Healthier US School Challenge). Houston received the highest award possible which is the Gold Award of Distinction. The Healthier US School Challenge is a voluntary certification initiative that has recognized many schools for their efforts in improving food

and beverage offerings, teaching students about nutritious food choices and being physically active, providing opportunity for physical activity (45 minutes per day at Houston), and having supportive school wellness policies. Some of the goals and purposes of this initiative are to serve school lunches that reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, restricting the availability of foods and beverages at school to those that meet healthier guidelines of lower fat, added sugars, and sodium. A wider variety of fruits and vegetables, including dark green and orange vegetables, dry beans and peas, and fresh fruits are offered daily. Frequent use of whole-grain products are offered to students on a daily basis with Talladega City Schools moving toward 100% whole-grains. We are offering nutrition education as well for students to learn and make healthier choices and providing students opportunities to be physically active during the school day.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently started regulating all snacks schools can sell during the school day. The Alabama State Department of Education required all school systems to adopt a wellness policy, which places emphasis on schools providing healthy snacks. Therefore, for years now, Talladega City Schools has addressed this issue and encouraged schools to offer only snacks which meet the requirements. "The new regulations will go into effect next school year and I feel we will be prepared for

this initiative because of the emphasis we have placed on providing healthy snacks for several years now," says Child Nutrition Program Director, Joni Baker.

On Monday, October 21st, Child Nutrition employees participated in a professional development program presented by Perry Fulton, past CNP State of Alabama Director of Nutrition. The program was on Financial Management, emphasizing the part all personnel play on a daily basis in maintaining program accountability. Due to new federal regulations, most programs in Alabama have seen an increase in food cost mainly due to the expense of offering fresh fruits and vegetables daily. Portion control and following recipes are vital now in order for our program to maintain the state required balances for operating costs. Employees were involved in hands-on activities regarding financial issues and regulations. The presentation was extremely informative and helped all

realize that financial accountability involves each and every employee in the Child Nutrition Program.

In the last few years, we have updated and renovated all the cafeterias with new colorful painting, murals, equipment, table/chairs, and extra features such as the "Hard Work" cafes. We promoted healthy eating through some of these projects by creating educational murals. For example, at Zora Ellis Jr. High the concept of the food pyramid was used as the base for the mural. She also incorporated the school mascot and the solar system into the design. As we updated each cafeteria we not only thought about the eye appeal, but we kept in mind the educational opportunities we could provide through these efforts since all students are in the cafeteria each day. We have made a lot of progress in providing our students with a comfortable as well as educational atmosphere each day to enjoy meals! ◀

## Board Recognition Month



January is designated as Board Recognition month and its purpose is to recognize the hard work and dedication of School Board Members. Talladega City Schools recognized our Board Members, James Braswell, Juanita McClellan, Bonnie Miller, Shirley Simmons-Sims, and Elizabeth Smith at the TCS January Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 15th.

Each Board Member was presented with a gift from administrators, teachers, faculty, and staff. We appreciate our Board Members and the time and efforts they commit to our school system on a daily basis! ◀

# Talladega City School's Central Office Staff

The Talladega City School system employs an excellent support staff in the central office. Mrs. Phyllis Large, Superintendent's secretary, works diligently with all personnel in the school system answering questions and relaying important messages to the Superintendent. She, also, keeps track of teacher and administrator certifications and renewals. Mrs. Large works with our substitutes and assist them with questions and concerns and enters information into Aesop. She works with the administrators in each school ensuring the accuracy of attendance reports submitted to the State Department of Education. Each month she prepares board packets for the Board Members and attends each meeting taking the minutes and recording those for the Board.

Mrs. Phyllis Givens, secretary for

Special Education and Federal Programs, works with these coordinators to ensure all guidelines are followed and deadlines are met in a timely manner. She, also, welcomes visitors to the building and refers them to the person they will need to talk with about problems, education issues, sales information, as well as other concerns. Mrs. Givens and Mrs. Large work with the Superintendent and Board Members on many other issues to keep the school system running smoothly on a daily basis.

Mrs. Sharon Blankenship, payroll clerk, works to make sure each employee is compensated each month and works with all employees on payroll and benefit issues. She has, also, worked with getting the Aesop program in place this year which allows us to track weekly hours of employees. This program enables us to

follow the new rules of the Affordable Healthcare Act. She is responsible for all W-2 information distributed to our employees and handles personnel issues. Her responsibilities, also, include maintaining our payroll system to ensure all areas of payroll are correct.

Mrs. Cheryl Mosley, CNP secretary/bookkeeper and Federal Program bookkeeper, works daily to make sure all state and federal guidelines are being followed financially for both of these programs. Mrs. Mosley, also, works with teachers in issuing credit cards for supply money and monitors expenditures making sure the balances stay within limits. Mrs. Mosley is responsible for checking monthly CNP inventories in the kitchens and entering this information in the CNP financial files. At the end of each month she produces a financial statement for CNP which reflects the income and expenditures for the month as well as the monthly and yearly balance for each school and the system. Mrs. Mosley, also, is responsible for checking and balancing bank statements each month.



We are extremely proud of our central office staff and appreciate all of their efforts in helping each and every person in the school system as well as guests who enter the central office for assistance. These ladies play a vital role in our school system and we want to express our gratitude to them for all the different roles they play in keeping our school system functioning effectively and efficiently! ◀

## Transportation Department



Our Transportation department, under the supervision of Mrs. Wanda Cochran, has been operating very efficiently this school year and we want to extend a special thanks to them for all their efforts in transporting our students safely on a daily basis. Their excellent job performance and dedication is visible throughout the school system. We want to give them special recognition for the outstanding job they did on January 28th during the snow storm. All but two students were taken home safely and those two children were supervised by Mrs. Cochran at the bus shop until their parents arrived. We appreciate Mrs. Cochran, Transportation Supervisor, and all of our bus drivers for taking such good care of our children!! ◀

## Maintenance Team

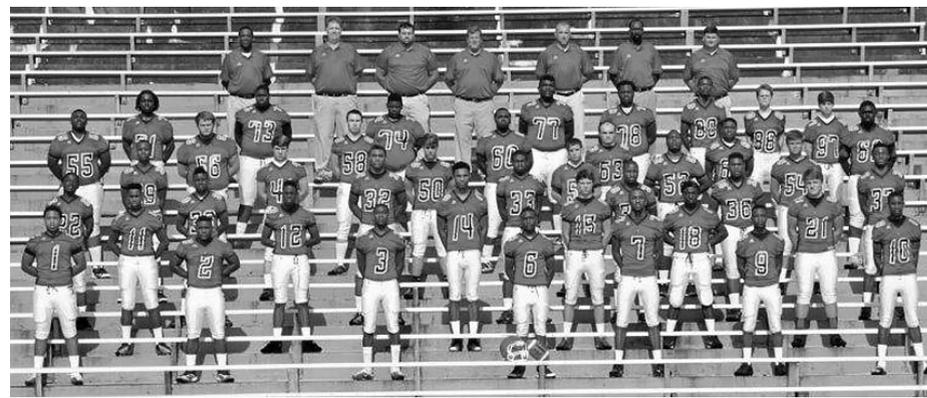
During the past few years the maintenance team for Talladega City Board of Education has upgraded many areas within the system.

Some of these include:

1. New roofs for THS, Graham, Zora Ellis, RL Young, Salter, and Harwell Auditorium
2. New 40 tons gas pack AC units for the THS gym
3. 1002 new seats for THS gym
4. 3 new 7 ton AC units and new duct work for RL Young
5. New or upgraded AC units for all schools
6. Replaced floor covering for many schools
7. New handicap restroom for the football stadium
8. Upgrades to the outside of the football stadium and the concession stands.
9. Press box has been upgraded
10. New upgrades to all the systems kitchens to meet health standards

**THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR MAINTENANCE TEAM FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK!!!!**

## SPORTS:



**FOOTBALL:** Presently, our football team is involved in a rigorous off season workout program. Coach Bates is in charge of the weight room and our agility and bounding. He is doing tremendous job of getting these young men to understand that every day you need to compete to be the best you can be. Last year we laid a foundation and this year we want to start putting the bricks on the foundation, and we hope to build a house that this town can be proud of in the future.

Our goal is to have a winning season and make the Alabama high school playoffs. That is our goal and the attitude of our young men are changing and they are getting better in the weight room and classroom every day. We have shirts that have AIE printed on the front... Attitude is everything. We had one player to sign a scholarship this year and hopefully next year we will have more. The main goal of our program is to help these young men get to the next level of life which is college.

**BASEBALL:** The THS baseball team started practicing on January 27th with twenty-two players along with the Junior Varsity team which has twenty players. This year's team is loaded with a lot of seniors who are determined to bounce back from last year's season. Both teams have been practicing hard and our goals are to have a winning season and make the playoffs.

**THS TRACK AND FIELD:** The THS Track team will be under the leadership of Coach Ward and Coach Sewell for the 2014 season. Our goal for this season is to have more involvement from the athletes to the track team. As it sits right now we are looking at 10 to 15 team members. Our athletes are training very

hard to be competitive in their chosen events so they can qualify for sectionals and meet state mandated distances/times. The team was fortunate enough to have Makia Tuck who competed last season at the State meet in the javelin event, and we are working and striving to have more athletes qualify to compete this year. During the regular season we will be competing at Lincoln and Sylacauga High Schools, and we look forward to seeing any of our community members coming out to support our athletes. Our athletes are striving to do their best this year, and hopefully you will be seeing more great things about us as the season begins.

**TENNIS:** The 2014 THS tennis team is off to a great start! This competitive group of individuals has shown total commitment and dedication by attending practice daily and working very hard. Because of this work ethic, they are anticipating a **SUCCESSFUL** but challenging season. Members of the girls' team are: Sidnetra Cochran, Mikella Fain, Taylor Hammond, Dekaisia Warwick, Jessica McKenzie, Eboni Watts, Deneisha Wallace, Brianna Curry and Katelyn Lackey. Members of the boys' team are: Joshua Harris, Stevlen Dickerson, Ryshawn Chatman, Mario Echols, D'Angelo Scales, Andrew Cheeks, and Rickaury Joseph.

**LADY TIGERS SOFTBALL TEAM:** After several years of not coaching softball at THS, Coach Jannie Keith is back in action as Head Coach and Coach James Browning is the Asst. Coach. Our goal for this year is to have a winning season. We had over 30 girls try out for the softball team. We are going to work hard on improving our pitching, defense,

and batting strength. Several of the players are in the weight room and we are hoping to notice an increase in power, flexibility, endurance, coordination, and strength. Softball is a sport that is well developed in our community because of our recreation and park center in Talladega. We invite everyone to come out and support the Lady Tigers as they move forward to accomplish their goals in 2014.

**LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL TEAM:** This year has been a very successful year for the lady tiger volleyball team at THS. Under new leadership of Coach Jannie Keith, the first achievement that the lady tigers accomplished was first place in the Talladega County Volleyball Tournament for Varsity and B-Team. Secondly, they won their Title in 5A/Area 8, which the volleyball team had never accomplished in the history of volleyball at THS. Finally, they were among the 32 teams to make an appearance in the 1st round of Sub-regional in Huntsville, AL. Although, they lost their first game in sub-regional, it was a very awesome year for the young ladies. We would like to say bravo to the following team members: Makia Tuck, Shemeshia Truss, SHeleshia Truss, Alexis McKinney, Alexis Morgan, Brianna Smoot, BreAnna Porter, Jorri Simmons, Taylor Hammonds, and Stephanie Dickerson.

**SOCCER:** The THS soccer teams are looking forward to a great 2014 season. The girl's team is building upon their successes from the last season to make this season even better. We have seven seniors this year who want to end their career with a winning season and we are working towards that goal. We have been working hard at practice so far this year and we know that we are moving in the

right direction!

**ZORA ELLIS BOYS BASKETBALL:** The 2013-14 Zora Ellis Jr. High boys basketball team had a very impressive season. The team finished with a 14-1 record. They avenged their only loss in overtime by 1 point to Midfield. Team members are: Trent Sams, Chaztin Tanner, Fred Dickerson, Vic Wilson Jr, TraShaundez Bolden, Montrell Johnson, Adrian Swain, Algernon Barclay, Tyrese Scales, JeQueris Wilson, Ron Dothard, and Saviyon Whiteside. Congratulations on a great season. A special thanks goes out to Vic Wilson Sr. and Eddie Duncan Sr. for their tireless support!

**THS VARSITY BASKETBALL:** Talladega High School Varsity Boys' Basketball team had a successful 2014 season. The Tigers had 29 wins and only 2 losses during regular season play. The tigers earned a spot in the playoffs in Montgomery, AL.

The Talladega Tigers won the following tournaments:

- Talladega Co.
- Shelby Co. Thanksgiving Tournament
- Talladega Co. Round Robin
- Area Tournament Champions

The MVP players were: Talladega County – Josh Madden, Talladega County Round Robin – Richard Williams, Shelby County Thanksgiving Tournament – De Angelo Scales, and Area Tournament – Ahmad Gooden

The 2014 Varsity Basketball players are: DeAngelo Scales, Josh Madden, Desmond Green, Marius Echols, Ahmad Gooden, DeAngelo Pointer, Josh Wilson, Kenderius Smith, Philip Roster, Richard Williams, and Antonne Garrett.

**CONGRATULATIONS TIGERS ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** ◀



# Schools excel within their Archery Program

At R.L. Young we began our archery program through NASP (National Archery in School Program) in 2009. Since the program began at R.L. Young we have a total of 130 students who have participated in archery competitions through our school. When we first started the program only the students from 4th grade to the 6th grade could compete. This year our sixth graders were included into the middle school division. The sixth grade students got the opportunity to try out for the middle school archery team, where we had three of our sixth graders to make the team. Here at R.L. Young we opened up our archery program to our third grade classes for the first time. It is wonderful to see how much the students are gaining from this program such as: discipline, safety, higher self-esteem, and new hobbies.

The archery program at R.L. Young has grown so much over the past six years. We have sponsorships from outside businesses to help out with our expenses. The Hunter Safety System Inc.

has been a sponsor for the past five years in helping our school's archery program. We have many local businesses who have stepped up in supporting our school by giving donations to help with out of state competition fees. It means so much to our school to have great support from so many great people here in Talladega who cares about our children and our schools.

This year the R.L. Young archery team will compete in Pell City for the regional archery competition. This will be our fourth year to compete in Pell City. Since we have competed at Pell City, R.L. Young's archery team has finished in second place in 2011 and 2012. In 2013 our archery team finished in first place for the first time in our school history at the regional competition. In 2012 our archery team earned the chance to compete in the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky for the first time.

Many students have carried their interest further than just shooting here at our school. We have several students who have competed in summer programs



where they have represented our city and schools well. I can only dream and hope that students will take this skill and use it in so many of their life lessons to come. Every student has an equal opportunity at being the best archer. As in life every person has an equal opportunity

to become a responsible citizen. I truly believe that R.L. Young's archery program is molding and shaping many young children's lives, and teaching them about hard work, and dedication. We have archery programs at Salter, Houston, and Zora Ellis as well. ◀

# Talladega High School Band

The Talladega High School Band is continuing its habits of excellence under the direction of Talladega native, Duane Player. This year, the marching band received superior ratings at the Chief Ladiga Marching Festival in Piedmont, AL. The band also had several students

to be accepted to several honor bands throughout the state. Amber Robinson, Alexandra McKay, and Destiny Lawler were accepted to the UAB Honor Band, Grace Byrd and Amber Robinson were selected for the University of Alabama Honor Band, and the following students

were selected for the University of Montevallo Honor Band: Brad Ward, Jordan Hallman, Grace Byrd, Robert Byrd, Najestyk Jordan, Carter Hadley, Nelson Bond, Micah Walters, Sawyer Waites, Caitlyn Stratton, Tristan Carmack, Justus Reynolds, Charity Johnson, and Kathryn

Keith. Two students, Amber Robinson and Brad Ward made the Alabama State Band, with Robert Byrd making the District 2 Alabama Honor Band. Amber Robinson, a band senior, received a \$14,000 scholarship to Alabama A&M University. ◀



# Talladega High School Cheerleaders



The Talladega High School Cheerleaders have had a busy year! We started this past summer with daily practices and cheerleader camp at ACE Gym in Gadsden. The girls worked on new routines, dances, and cheers, and painted signs for the upcoming football season. Each girl was responsible for

selling ads for the football program, and the community showed an overwhelming support for our program because our program book held an additional 20 pages of ads this year.

Once the football season began, for each home game, we held a pep rally and decorated the gym and field. Special

thanks to several local churches that fed the football team and cheerleaders on Fridays before each home game. One afternoon, the cheerleaders went out into the community to "Paint the Town Red" and several businesses allowed the girls to paint their store windows with spirit slogans.

Cheerleaders and Dega, the tiger mascot, visited each elementary school on home game days to sell spirit items. All students at the school that had received an "A" in conduct for the week was given a free ticket to come to the game.

During Homecoming Week, the cheerleaders, senior football players, THS drumline, senior dance line, and Dega visited each school to hold a pep rally for the students. Homecoming Week theme this year was "Welcome to the Jungle-THS Tiger Den". The gym and office

areas were decorated with a jungle theme. Each class participated in a contest to see which commons was decorated the best. Students participated in a parade and bonfire that week along with dress up days such as Tacky Day, Spirit Day, and Nerd Day. At the pep rally, each senior football player and cheerleader presented a jersey or t-shirt to the faculty member that had been the greatest influence to them during their time at THS.

Cheerleaders participated in the Davy Allison Walk of Fame Induction during race week, and the BEST Robotics Team Competition in Auburn.

Basketball season keeps the cheerleaders busy with several games each week. Once the season is over, it will be time for tryouts and the new group of cheerleaders will begin the process of bringing spirit to THS all over again. ◀

# Talladega High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) Program

During the past year, the Army JROTC Program has been involved in many activities and functions that have enabled the student cadets an opportunity to experience, learn, and serve in many facets of school and community life. The end result is a student better prepared to serve as a productive member of our society and possessing a working knowledge of the expectations of an American citizen.

In addition to normal classroom activities which focus on the citizenship, character development, leadership and life skills, cadets have been immersed in many extra-curricular events and functions to further enhance and refine those skills in a multitude of varied settings. This includes competitive events such as drill, rifle team, and physical training (PT) team matches, and non-competitive events such as color guard performances, mentoring, and community service projects. Not only have the cadets participated

in these events, but they have also excelled by performing at high levels. Just last spring, Talladega High cadets took top honors in a regional drill meet, receiving eleven trophies, one in each category in which they competed.

This year classroom instruction will be enhanced by field trips, historical tours, and social events which further develop and enhance cadet skills. Currently planned are a military ball, a national battlefield tour, several competitive events, and a major community service project.

The Army JROTC Program at Talladega High School is alive and well, based not only on the support of the school and community, but also by the numbers of students who continue to enroll each semester and each school year. The program is and will continue to be a vibrant part of the high school's fabric now and for years to come. ◀



# TALLADEGA HIGH SCHOOL “BEST” TEAM... ROBOTICS COMPETITION!!!

For the past 2 years the Talladega High School Career Tech BEST team has been working diligently to participate in the BEST robotics competition. This team consists of students in 9th through 12th grades. This has been an excellent learning experience for our students and has required collaboration for all involved. Most importantly, some of the most creative and intelligent students have emerged to work on this project.

Not any of this could have been accomplished without the support of their teachers and the Career Tech Director. The team is sponsored by Mr. Joseph Huss, the precision machining instructor and Mr. Chad Usrey, Agriscience. These teachers have spent a lot of their personal time with the team providing constructive criticism, brain storming sessions, and allowed the use of their facilities after school to work on their project. When asking team members, “What are you doing?” ...you will hear a variety of responses such as, “We are writing out the programs for each function and tasks the robot has to perform” or you may hear, “We are designing and manufacturing all of the components of the robot.”

Every aspect of the robot is designed and created by the student engineers. The first step involved is sketching an idea on paper. Once the team agrees on the design a cardboard prototype is built. Once the prototype is successfully created and tested the building of the component begins. The team will determine the best materials to use and how much would be needed. Central Alabama BEST provides each team with a restricted amount of supplies. Additional equipment is not allowed for the competition and would cause the team to be disqualified. The team works closely in order to make everything function without the use of more materials.

The programmers had to decide which buttons on the hand-held controller should work the motors and the mechanics of the robot. Computer aided design (CAD) drawings are created for each component designed by the engineers. Information is taken by the programmers and transferred to the “brain” of the robot. This information sends signals to the motors, allowing the team to control the robot.

Fundraising has also been an area of concentration for the team. The fundraising

team works diligently for weeks calling and visiting local businesses in order to gain support. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their continued support of the robotics team: Michael’s Menswear, Loi’s Barber Shop, Gaither’s Florist, Griffin’s Jewelers, Cablesark Solutions, Professional Apothecary, City of Talladega, Councilman Ricky Simpson, the Rotary Club, Colonial Motors, Reliable Transmission, Jim Preuitt Ford, The Daily Home, B.L. Malone and Associates, Hindman’s Wrecker Service, Brannon’s, Southeastern Pattern and Machine, Jack’s, and Talladega Machinery and Supply.

One of the most important committees is the Project Engineering Notebook committee. The notebook provides a description of the ideas and the process the team has used to design the robot.

Each team member is a part of every committee. Therefore, these students have input in everything that is involved with the competition. Through the BEST program, these students not only learned what it is like to be an engineer or a programmer, but also what it takes to work with a team. Teamwork is a vital skill in which all students need to help them become successful in life.

This year’s theme for the robot was “Gatekeeper,” a challenge to build a robot that could build a CPU or central processing unit for a computer. The robots had three challenges to master in the competition this year. The robot had to hang a hanger on a hook, pick up a wooden dowel and place it in a hole, and place a wooden puzzle piece in the correct CPU board slot. The challenge was to learn about the logic behind a computer system. There were two competitions ...one is the game for the robots and the other is the BEST award, which is made up of a marketing presentation, exhibit, project engineering notebook and spirit and sportsmanship. Each category is judged by industry, education and community volunteers.

In the competition this year, Talladega High School Career Tech Center won second place in the BEST competition and first place in the robot competition. Our team advanced to Auburn for the South’s BEST regional competition. Joseph Huss, precision machining instructor and robotics



coach said 31 Talladega High School students attended the competition this year. We are extremely proud of our Talladega High School Career Tech

BEST team and we want to commend the students, teachers, and administrators who have worked successfully on this initiative for the past few years! ◀

## Pre-K Program

The Talladega City Schools Pre-K program has been used as a model site for the State of Alabama for the past six years. Our students are actively engaged in learning each day through group lessons, center-related activities, and through the use of 21st century technology. The program is strategically planned to offer each student the educational materials and background information they will need to be successful and prepared for Kindergarten and first grade. This program is located at Houston Elementary where we enroll 18 students per year in the class. We continue to see amazing results with student learning. Not only is this program provided to enhance the educational opportunities for these students, but it allows them to grow socially as well. The Lead teacher of our Pre-K program, Dawn Haywood, and Auxiliary teacher, Karen Graves work diligently to provide our pre-K students with the experiences they will need to



prepare them for school. The program implemented GOLD strategies this year which is an assessment program. Our Pre-K team met all of the OSR requirements and was complimented for being an outstanding, successful Pre-K program. We are very proud of our A+ Pre-K program and the success it has brought to many students over the last several years! ◀

# Awards Programs

All of our schools use every opportunity possible to recognize and award students for their accomplishments. At the elementary level, students are encouraged in the areas of academics/testing results, attendance, behavior, and citizenship. At the end of every six weeks students who make the A and B honor roll are rewarded. For example, at Houston elementary the honor roll students are allowed to go on some type of field trip whether it is locally or maybe at times out of town. R.L. Young has an honor roll assembly each six-week term where parents are invited and awards are presented. These initiatives give students an incentive to work harder to accomplish goals.

Another example is R.L. Young's annual Medal Ceremony honoring students' testing accomplishments on ARMT (Alabama Reading and Math Test). Students who score in the 3's and 4's on the test are honored by category.



## ARTS... A HANDS-ON APPROACH (visual, performing, and language)



Fifth grade students who scored a 3 or 4 on the Science Assessment were honored at this ceremony as well. A special honor is given to the "rising star" student. This student made great efforts throughout the year and improved drastically. R.L. Young, also, has a good citizen program, STAR student of the week, attendance program, data board, use of students in leadership positions, and AR program prizes such as trophy of the week for highest comprehension.

Graham Elementary and Salter Elementary, also, have awards programs for their students which reinforce academic success, attendance, and good behavior. Students as well as the parents look forward to the award programs which gives them an incentive to accomplish goals in all of these areas.

At Zora Ellis, our junior high, they

have implemented a positive behavior support program in which the goal is to set expectations, target outcomes, and achieve goals ...behavioral and academic. Students who meet these goals are given a ticket each week and rewarded for their success. This initiative has decreased discipline referrals significantly this school year.

Talladega High School organizes and accomplishes many programs on numerous topics throughout the school year. Of course, at the end of the year they have the awards programs for academic success and seniors are recognized and some are awarded scholarships during these programs for selected colleges and universities. Students are also recognized through extra-curricular activities with athletic banquets, band programs, and ROTC awards programs. ◀



Heritage Hall is actively working with our students, providing them with the opportunity to receive enriching arts education in all the areas of art ...visual, performing, and language. We realize that arts education is important in developing a "well rounded" student. Arts education is not just fun activities, but can foster critical thinking by stimulating creativity and imagination in each student. The arts are not just about painting a pretty picture or a dramatic role in a play, but rather teaches a different way of thinking and problem solving in and out of the classroom.

Our students have greatly enjoyed the art lessons in all of the three areas and we are thankful to have Heritage Hall to work collaboratively with us, providing a positive, enjoyable, and educational experience. We are hoping to expand our program to include more students in the future! ◀

# Superintendent's Art Show

The Talladega City School System participates in the Superintendent's Art Show each year. Students are encouraged to participate in the contest and teachers work with the students in their classrooms to encourage them to submit their best work for this endeavor. We had many entries this year with some excellent art work from all who participated. We are extremely proud of our art presentation from the student entries and want to congratulate the winners from our system.

First Place - Simon Trescott - Talladega High

Second Place - Dejavion Spratling - Salter Elementary

Third Place - Saryna Thacker - Talladega High

Category II Art Work for Photography - Peyton McDonald - R.L. Young Elementary

Other art work selected to be submitted at the State level include:

Arni Patel - Houston Elementary

Takayja Robinson - Houston Elementary

Cornelius Swain - Houston Elementary

Cameron Bruegeman - Houston Elementary

Gracie Elliott - Houston Elementary

Aubree Hays - Houston Elementary

Lola Armstrong - R. L. Young Elementary

Litzy Diego - Salter Elementary

Jaquintez Garrett - Salter Elementary

Rydaija Wells - Salter Elementary

Emma Bradshaw - Graham Elementary

Gracie Bates - Graham Elementary

Alexander McKay - Talladega High ◀



## Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jana Hadley, first grade teacher, at Houston Elementary School was selected as the Elementary Teacher of the Year for Talladega City Schools! Mrs. Hadley was also selected to represent the system as the Jacksonville State University Hall of Fame nominee.

Mrs. Hadley is a very creative, dedicated, loyal, and professional educator. Mrs. Hadley

works long hours preparing for daily instruction so that her students excel in reading and math. Mrs. Hadley implements technology into her daily lessons which motivates and engages all of her students. Mrs. Hadley volunteers to assist with all extra projects and serves on multiple committees at Houston Elementary. Mrs. Hadley's dedication to her children is

evident in the classroom and each afternoon as she tutors children free of charge. Mrs. Hadley's creative imagination is displayed in the hallway and in her classroom. Her creativity is also recognized through her students. Because of Hadley's creativity and ability to incorporate all of her skills into daily lessons, her students excel in all areas. Mrs. Hadley's positive attitude and soft spoken manner creates a positive and nurturing environment in her classroom.

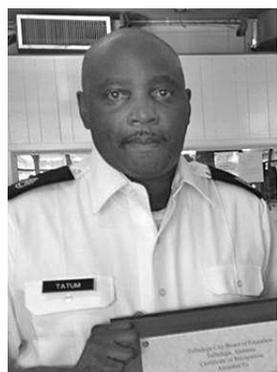
Congratulations, Mrs. Hadley! ◀



## Secondary Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to SFC Michael Tatum for being selected as the secondary Teacher of the Year for Talladega City Schools. SFC Tatum goes over and beyond the call of duty to help students in achieving their academic and personal goals to prepare them for the future. He makes a difference in the lives of all students he teaches and other students at Talladega High School as well.

We are proud to have SFC Tatum as a teacher at our high school level and very honored that he is our secondary Teacher of the Year! We commend SFC Tatum for this honor and all he does on a daily basis to make a positive impact on our students at Talladega High School. ◀



## Elementary students celebrate the 100th day of school

All Elementary schools in the Talladega City School System celebrated the 100th day of school during the week of February 3-7. Each school planned exciting activities for the students during this event. The activities were fun, but stimulated learning as well.

Some of the examples were students in the lower grades brought 100 pieces of an item, using these items to complete math related problems. Also, students dressed like they were 100 years old to celebrate 100 days of school. We were amazed at the creativity by students and parents involved in this activity. We had some amazing 100 year old students roaming the halls during this celebration!

This event provided students with learning activities and, also, encouraged creativity and critical thinking. The 100th day celebration fostered school/parent relations as well. Many parents were involved in coordinating this event. ◀







# Fall Festivities in Talladega Schools



All schools in the Talladega City School System celebrated the Fall season with enriching activities for the students. The schools combined holiday celebration with a host of educational experiences. Events included pumpkin literacy projects, Halloween parades, Halloween costume contests, pre-K trick or treating, along with many other enriching activities for students.

The pumpkin literacy project encouraged family participation and collaboration in order to make a favorite book character come alive. The objective for this project was not only for the children, but to involve a child's family and care-givers in his/her education. Through this project, schools created a plan, collaborated, had many conversations, and produced a final product that will stick in the child's mind forever.



This project was also a fun way to address several common core standards as thoughts were provoked, dialogue took place in the homes of our children, and engagement and creativity was put to the test.

Students and their families put a lot of thought in the costumes for Halloween. Some students were very proud to be part of a Halloween Costume contest. We had many wonderful creative outfits and we are proud of the students who participated in this activity and congratulate the winners! Fall was definitely a fun enriching time for our students, as well as promoting creativity and problem solving through these activities!

## Building 21st Century skills through the use of cutting edge technology



Technology Coordinator, Brett Thomas, says, "We are constantly upgrading our technology in the classroom because it plays such a vital role in instruction and learning for our students." Students have access to over 2,000 computers district wide. We have grades K-8 equipped with Promethean Boards, active slates, and clicker sets. Also, grades K-8 have Apple/iPad carts containing one teacher laptop, a printer, and 25 student laptops in their schools. Talladega City Schools will continue to provide information to parents through School Cast for school and district announcements and emergency information. We have contracted with both, Aesop, an automated substitute placement and absence management system and VeriTime, a time and

attendance management system which is integrated with Aesop for the 13/14 school year. In the future, the district has plans to implement a 1:1 initiative for K-12. This means that every child in the district will have access to a tablet, laptop, or computer. The advantages of every child having a device is that it will eliminate the need for multiple books students have to carry, enhance learning and make instruction more "hands-on." This initiative makes learning more genuine and personal, and gives an entire database of knowledge to students. In addition to the aforementioned advantages, it ensures that all students of Talladega City Schools will have continued access to current and future technology.



# Grandparents' Day



All of the elementary schools in the system designate a day to recognize the students' grandparents. As we all know, in most cases the Grandparent plays a vital role in the child's life and even in some cases helps with the day to day education of the child. On this day, the Grandparents are invited to the school to have lunch with the child, tour the school, and participate in various activities with their grandchild. This event helps the grandparent feel more involved with the child's education and makes them feel welcome and comfortable in the school environment. Mostly, the event is one where the students and the teachers enjoy the visits by the grandparents and can even gain insight into the role the grandparent plays in the education of the child. We welcomed over 400 Grandparents in the school system as a whole to observe Grandparents' Day! This is an excellent example of the school system promoting positive school, parent, and community relations. ◀

# Red Ribbon Week



Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. This event generally takes place the last full week in October. This year the schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 21-25, 2013.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America.

Red Ribbon Week, also, commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique Camarena, who died at the hands of drug associated citizens in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

Most importantly, Talladega City Schools uses this program

to emphasize the dangers of using drugs and to encourage our students to live a drug free life. Several activities are planned each year to celebrate this initiative. All students are given a "Red Ribbon" to wear each day saying they will be "Drug Free!!" Each school creates their own calendar of events for the week. Some examples of themes for each day include, "Following your Dreams ...Don't Do Drugs" (pajama day). "Team Up Against Drugs"(jersey day), "Join the fight

Against Drugs" (camouflage day), Top ten reasons to be drug free activity, design a t-shirt, and 6th graders do a drug-free presentation for the younger students.

Also, we involve the community in this initiative by asking speakers from the police department and drug force team to speak to the students. All students are influenced by the activities during Red Ribbon Week and we feel this initiative has a lasting impact on children as they become responsible adults. ◀

# Dot Day.....



Dot Day was celebrated at all of the elementary schools in the system on Monday, September 16th. Dot Day is based on the book *The Dot* by Peter H Reynolds. *The Dot* more than anything celebrates the power of creative teaching and being able to make your own mark on the world. *The Dot* tells

the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkable creative way. This is the goal of teachers in the system ...striving to reach each and every student to make them as successful as possible!

The students and staff enjoyed celebrating and learning during this experience. Students and teachers dressed with "dot" outfits and students participated in creative projects throughout the day. ◀

# Alabama A&M visits Talladega High School



The Alabama A & M University 2014 Community Outreach Bus Tour stopped in Talladega on Tuesday, February 3. The University awarded scholarships to four students from Talladega High School. The scholarships ranged from \$6000.00 to just under \$28,000, and were based on grade point average and ACT scores.

The President of Alabama A & M, Dr. Hugine, spoke to students about career choices and the importance of starting early to plan for college. He encouraged them to pursue all avenues of financial assistance so they will be able to reach their ultimate goal of becoming prepared for their future professions.

Talladega High School hosted their annual Guidance Senior Night on Thursday, February 6 where parents were invited to receive information on financial aid and other scholarship opportunities. ◀

# Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month remains an important moment for America to celebrate the achievements and contributions black Americans have played in U.S. history. This celebration first began in the 1920's and February has since been designated as Black History Month by every U.S. President since 1976. Celebrating Black History Month in schools is an opportunity to introduce students to the history of black culture. During this time, children are exposed to black icons and the fascinating history of Africa. They are, also, introduced to black inventors who have made it possible to enjoy conveniences we take for granted and black people whose bravery changed history. Our lessons during Black History Month open students' minds to the richness of Black History.

During the month of February all schools in the system celebrated "Black History Month" by providing students with many exciting and educational activities and programs. Motivational speakers were at the schools to speak on the history of black heritage and to encourage all students to set goals for themselves as well as to strive to do well in school so they can reach these goals. Guest speakers were brought in to read various African American stories to the students. Skits and presentations by the students were, also, a part of the celebration. Throughout the month of February various opportunities were provided for our students which initiated the awareness of Black History and all the contributions that have been made to our society from Black Americans. ◀



# Celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday

All the elementary schools in the district celebrated Dr. Seuss birthday during the first week in March. Who doesn't love Dr. Seuss? His books have inspired countless students in the past and continue to do so today! This year was the 17th annual Read Across America celebration.

Read Across America Day celebrates Dr. Seuss birthday and emphasizes the importance of reading in a child's life as well as the joys of reading. Our students "grabbed their hats and read *The Cat in the Hat*" on March 3rd which was the actual Read Across America day of celebration. All teachers planned fun and inspiring activities for the students during this initiative. These activities initiated creativity in the students along with learning

through reading, math, and language arts lessons.

The students dressed like Dr. Seuss, had snacks similar to "green eggs and ham", participated in individual and group activities, and completed many other activities to emphasize the importance of reading. The students loved seeing the characters come to life in the various activities provided to them. Last year, Houston elementary attended the musical, *Seussical*, in Gadsden. The musical was based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Parents are involved in planning activities for students as well as assisting the teachers during the week with the classroom Dr. Seuss activities to promote and share the love of reading! ◀

# Don't Text and Drive Program by ABC 33/40

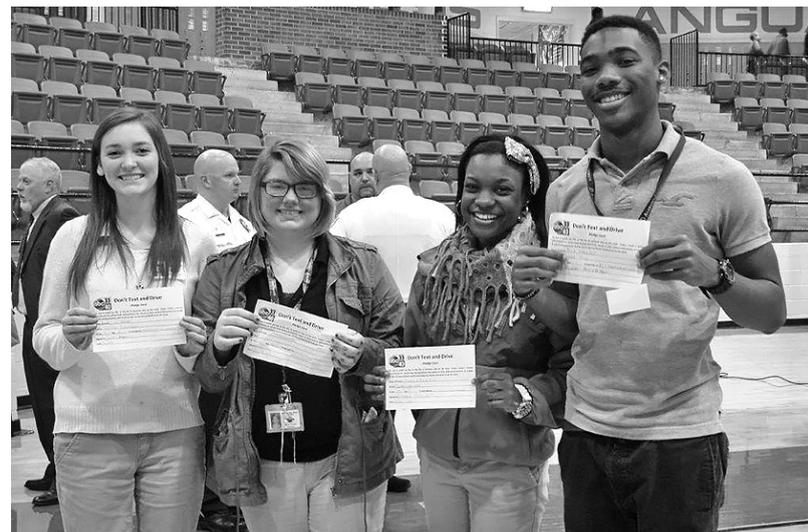
ABC 33/40's Robert Richardson and Linda Mays visited Talladega High School on January 14 to present their "Don't Text and Drive" program to the students. Richardson talked with the students about the dangers of texting and driving. He asked students how many times each day they normally text and if any of these texts were sent while driving.

Mays had the students view two videos about families who had lost children or had a child injured because of someone texting and driving. She asked the students to raise their hands if they were willing to sign a "Don't Text and Drive" pledge card. All of the students were willing to sign the pledge, which states, "No text is worth my life, or the life of someone

else on the road. Today I make a serious commitment to: refrain from texting behind the wheel; to drive without distractions; to engage in safe driving practices; and to encourage my friends and family to do the same."

Along with the ABC 33/40 presentations, Police Chief Jason Busby talked with the students about the dangers of texting and driving. He gave them the legal perspective of the issue and made them aware of the fines involved if they text and drive.

Students were touched by the program, which made them aware of how quickly they could lose their lives or endanger the life of another person if they choose to text and drive! ◀



# Graham Elementary

The 2013-14 school year has been a busy one at Graham Elementary. Our faculty, staff, parents, and students have all been involved in making the year a success. We began the year with celebrating International Dot Day in September. International Dot Day is a day to celebrate creativity, courage and collaboration. Our students were challenged to wear as many dots as they could and teachers did lessons with their students to promote creativity, courage and collaboration.

In early October the library held its first book fair of the year raising around \$2000.00 to help support the purchase of new books and materials. We also invited the Episcopal Day School for a read aloud and time to experience a school library setting during the book fair. Each nine weeks we celebrate honor roll success with a Class Awards

Ribbon Week activities. Students were encouraged to follow their dreams by wearing PJs to combat drug use. Students wore red on National Wear Red Day, sunglasses because “drugs are shady” and outfits from the past decades on back to the future day. At the end of the week, students teamed up against drugs by wearing their favorite team jersey. Fourth grade students were also given the opportunity to work with Sandra Holmes, an art instructor provided by Heritage Hall, in performing arts and will get to work with her in the spring in Literary arts.

November started with lots of fun at our second annual fall festival. Students from the Talladega High School Honor Society were a big help in operating the booths at the festival. Our second nine weeks honor roll students were rewarded with an ice cream party. To prepare for



Assembly and an honor roll reward activity. The first nine weeks students who maintained all A's or AB honor roll were rewarded with bowling for students grades 4-6 and bicycle and wheelie day for students grades 2-3. Graham students ended the month by participating in the fight against drug use through Red

the Iron Bowl, Graham's Student Council held an Alabama vs Auburn penny drop competition aimed at assisting the toy drive in December.

December was a short, but active month for the GES family. Faculty, staff and students honored Reagan Cunningham, a GES student who lost

her long battle with cancer, by hosting a celebration of life gathering outside to remember this very special student by releasing pink balloons with messages written to her. Our annual toy drive was a fun and encouraging event that teaches our students how important it is to give instead of receiving. Money from the Alabama vs Auburn penny drop competition helped support Graham's donations to First Family Services Toy drive. Students also brought in new toys or money to help purchase toys for the First Family Services Toy drive. A group was taken to Walmart to shop so that students could experience the act of giving instead of receiving.

The New Year began with a bang for honor students being rewarded with a “Happy New Year Dance.” All GES students had the opportunity to participate in the Six Flags Read to Succeed Program to earn free Six Flags Tickets to use this summer. Over 120 students turned in their reading tracking forms at the beginning of February for this and will receive a ticket with their last report card!

Andrew Campbell, a sixth grader at GES tried out and made the Zora Ellis archery team in the fall and competed in the local competition on February 14. Relay for Life Team Graham began their fundraising efforts to find a

cure for cancer in February by selling Candy Grams to students to celebrate Valentine's Day. Team Graham also held their first Monday Bake Sale and will continue to do so each Monday until spring break. The fourth nine weeks honor roll students will celebrate with a trip to Talladega Rec Center to play basketball, ping pong, and games.

The year is not over and we still have lots more fun ahead of us! Sixth grade students will participate in Life Skills classes provided by Callie's Kids. Students in grades K-3 will be attending Little Miss Muppet and grades 4-6 will be attending Tom Sawyer at the Ritz this spring. Team Graham is planning a week to educate students on Relay for Life and end the week with “Relay Recess.” Relay Recess is a program for elementary school students to have fun while fighting cancer. Dr. Seuss, “Read Across America,” will be celebrated with a weeklong celebration of reading activities. We hope to have community members be mystery readers and have students partner together to buddy read. Students who read and reach a goal of 100 points through the Accelerated Reader program will be rewarded with a trip to Air Jump in Birmingham. Graham students will end the year with a day filled with fun at GES Field Day. ◀

# Houston Elementary

Students, teachers, and staff at Evelyn D. Houston Elementary have amazing fun focusing on literacy, taking part in math activities, and promoting physical activity and health. To enhance the day-to-day learning activities, teachers have come up with a whole host of fun and exciting ways to engage the students in the education process.

**Jump Rope for Heart** - Jump Rope for Heart is a life-saving and educational community-service program. Thanks to Coach Smith and Coach Sims, students, staff, and parents for participating in activities and working collaboratively to help our school earn \$619.06 for the American Heart Association.

**Math Bowl** - Second-grade teachers hosted a fun outdoor "Math Bowl" for students. What a great way to enjoy the fine weather in Houston's courtyard while practicing multiplication facts. The competition included several fast-paced and exciting fact games.

**Arthur: David M. Sargent** - World-famous author David M. Sargent Jr. came all the way from Arkansas to read and speak to Houston students. It was a fun and exciting show with a lot of cute and amazing tricks from his dog friends. A few of our teachers even got a chance to hold the dogs. Afterwards, the author stayed to autograph books and speak with the kids personally.

**Seussical** - NEA's Read Across America Day celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday and the joys of reading. Houston teachers are planning fun and inspiring activities for the whole week. Last Spring, Houston's pre-K through second-grade students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by attending the musical, *Seussical*, in Gadsden. The musical was based on the works of Dr. Seuss.

**Technology in the Classrooms** - Houston is a technology rich school. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive Promethean Board as well as Active Inspire software and Activote Response systems. Each classroom has access to Mac laptops as well as iPads. The teachers are provided with up-to-date training to help integrate technology into all aspects of the daily lesson. Houston is also the second school in Alabama to purchase interactive Promethean Tables. With six tables, Houston has the most Promethean Tables of any school in the state.

**Dot Day** - Students and teachers dressed up to celebrate International Dot Day and participated in many creative dot projects. Dot Day is based on the book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and celebrates the idea of creativity and being able to make your own mark on the world.

**Red Ribbon Week** - Houston Elementary celebrates Red Ribbon Week in October of each year. Throughout the week, students and teachers participate in fun activities to help boost drug awareness and the commitment to being drug free. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug-prevention campaign in the country.

**100th Day of School** - Houston's Pre-K through third-grade students engaged in many fun activities



while celebrating the 100th day of school. There were treats and fun as well as many hands-on learning activities. Teachers took the 100th day of school as an opportunity to provide hands on math, writing, reading, and art enrichment lessons. To add to the fun, students and teachers dressed up as if they were 100 years old.

**Honor Roll Field Trips** - Houston celebrates the accomplishments of individual students and their hard work by planning Honor Field trips. First through sixth-grade students are offered a wide variety of fun learning experiences such as the McWane Science Center, DeSoto Caverns, swimming, movies, plays, skating, and bowling just to name a few.

**Accelerated Reader Goals** - Houston's AR committee that is comprised of students, teachers, and parents set reading goals that challenge the students to be proficient readers with high comprehension skills. At the end of the year, those students who have met their individual reading goals with a comprehension level of 85 percent or better are rewarded with a free field trip.

Be a champion and Read - Houston participates in the annual "Be a Champion and Read" contest presented by the Alabama Education Association. The goal of the contest is to get children excited about reading. The challenge is for students to read six reading-level-appropriate books to qualify for one grand prize: tickets to the Iron Bowl.

**Read to Succeed Program** - Houston participates in the Read to Succeed program. The Read to Succeed program is a free educational program from Six Flags and Discovery Education that inspires kindergarten through sixth-grade students to engage in recreational reading. Students who complete six hours of recreational, non-school-related reading are eligible to earn a free admission ticket to a participating Six Flags theme park.

**Costume contest** - In October, the hallways were full of little creatures when students with an "A"

in conduct were allowed to dress up and take part in a costume contest. They had a wonderful parade throughout the halls while "Monster Mash" played in the background. Teachers and students passed out treats to pre-kindergarten students as they came toured all classrooms. Each grade level received prizes based upon originality in costume. There were overall prizes as well. Local community leaders served as judges for this fun-filled event.

**Pumpkin Literacy** - Second- and third-grade students participated in a pumpkin literacy project. The students read a book and then decorated pumpkins based on their favorite characters from the story. This inclusive, hands-on project not only promoted reading and literacy, it also was a great family enrichment activity.

**Pre-Kindergarten Program** - Aimed at giving students a jump start on their education, Houston's pre-kindergarten program continues to be a fundamental part of the school's early childhood education focus. The program accommodates up to 18 students and is designed to give them the primary learning skills necessary to excel throughout their school experience. Pre-K students are assessed throughout the year on multiple levels of development, including social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literary, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and the arts. Child development and learning is complex. The Pre-K assessment system measures the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that are most predictive of school success.

**Honor Society and Beta Club** - Houston has a number of programs designed to recognize and honor outstanding students. Fourth grade students are inducted into the honor society after meeting set criteria. Students meeting similar criteria are also inducted into BETA club annually. Fourth through sixth grade Honor Society and BETA club members have the opportunity to participate in various community service projects throughout the school. ◀

# C.L. Salter Elementary

C.L. Salter Elementary School began our 2013-2014 school year with an Open House and Meet the Teacher Night. We were thrilled that almost 100% of our parents were in attendance! Our parents were trained on Dibels testing, Go Math, Wonders Reading Series, Rosetta Stone, and were given worthwhile homework tips. We work hard to establish the home and school connection with our parents by sending home daily planners, Bee Books, and weekly folders.

Our teachers received excellent training in the fall with technology, our new Wonders Reading Series, Go Math, English as a Second Language and WAY (Wellness, Academics, and You).

At C.L. Salter Elementary School, we are proud of our technology! Each classroom has a promethean board and projector for daily classroom use. The teachers are excited about these new additions to their classrooms. The students love the interactive technology and hands on approach to learning! We also have devices in the hands of all of our students with the welcome addition of laptops and Ipads.

In August, we elected our sixth grade Student Ambassadors. They have duties each month such as hanging the U.S. and Alabama flags, reciting the pledge and the character education tip each morning over the intercom, maintaining the school grounds, school



store, etc. Our faculty met and wrote our Continuous Improvement Plan for our school which drives the daily direction of our curriculum. Heritage Hall began an 18 week program with our fourth graders focusing on drawing, performing arts, and literary arts.

September held many exciting opportunities such as Grandparents' Day, Talladega College Basketball Girls' Team spent a day reading to all of our students, Boy Scout Round Up, Book Fair in the library, A/B Honor Roll Trip to Golden Flake and Air Walk, Character Education Program for sixth grade with First Family Services sponsored by Callie's Kids, and pep rallies with Talladega High School. We were excited that we won the coveted Spirit Stick for two years in a row!

In October we began activities with the 4H Extension Services for our fifth and sixth graders. C.L. Salter Elementary School is the only Certified Outdoor Classroom Facility in the Talladega City School System. We held a school wide day in our gardens. Each grade level was responsible for designing a sign and tending their plot. We have grown many things such as turnip greens, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, and flowering bulbs. We have a pond on our school grounds and enjoy watching the fish, tadpoles, and frogs in the spring. There is a bird sanctuary with bird baths, bird feeders, and bird houses. Our teachers decorated pumpkins like book characters and displayed them in the hallway for our many visitors to see. The A/B Honor Roll Trip was to the pumpkin patch. National School Lunch Week and DARE Week were also held this month.

Our annual Retired Teachers' Luncheon

was held in November. We always enjoy welcoming them back to school. Our students are so giving and donated over 300 cans to the Samaritan House this year. Our first graders visited the FFA Barnyard at Talladega High School. All of our students made Christmas cards



to send to our servicemen and women overseas through the American Red Cross. We attended a Hansel and Gretel play at Harwell Auditorium, had a Fall Festival to benefit our library, and enjoyed a visit from James Spann a meteorologist with ABC 33/40. Santa Claus made a visit to C.L. Salter School, Kindergarten classes visited the fire station, sixth grade made a trip to DeSoto Caverns, and we held a School-Wide Talent Show.

December was a fun-filled month! We made cards and baskets to thank our Board of Education members, the employees at the Board of Education, maintenance, transportation and our bus drivers. Our Student Ambassadors visited the Talladega Healthcare Facility and entertained them with Christmas carols. Our Harvest Kings and Queens were honored with an assembly and rode in the Christmas Parade. The Missoula Children's Theatre came and held a workshop with our third graders. Fifth graders visited the McWain Center, we took the entire school to see the movie "Frozen", A/B Honor Roll students took a trip to IJump, and we had several participants and winners of the Superintendents' Art Show.

In January, our students took their Dibels tests in grades Kindergarten through second. They had excellent results! We also took many other tests such as Global Scholar Math and Reading, STAR tests, and reading benchmarks. We celebrated the 100th Day of School by dressing as if we were 100 years old!

We planned several Black History activities for the month of February. Students read tributes to famous Black Americans over the intercom, we had

a program from Talladega College, and held a school-wide program to culminate our study. We are so proud to say our Archery Team won in the Regional Archery Tournament championship and our A/B Honor Roll students visited Blue Bell.

We will have an Earth Day Celebration this spring, sign yearbooks, celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, have an AR Field Trip to the Barons Game, commemorate Cinco de Mayo, and sixth graders are excited about a trip they have planned to Disneyworld. During the spring, we are gearing up for testing and look forward to our annual incentive after testing is over. We will also have our yearly Kindergarten and Sixth Grade Graduation and First through Fifth Grade Awards Day at Harwell Auditorium.

At C.L. Salter Elementary School, we believe in fostering a love for learning, building strong character values, and bringing out the best in our students. Teachers create a strong classroom environment that both challenges and supports every student. We work each day to maintain the vision of the Talladega City School System:

Moving forward to meet the demands of a changing world:

Through academic programs which meet the needs of all students.

Through current technology bringing the world to our fingertips.

Through facilities which provide a clean, safe, well-maintained learning environment.

Through a school culture which fosters qualities of human greatness.

Through a community that supports its schools. ◀

# R. L. Young Elementary



How great it is to attend R L Young Elementary!

Talladega City has four elementary schools. These schools offer something most systems cannot, a very personal approach to education. The schools are small enough in student population so that children are known by name and families feel comfortable and welcome. Most students begin in kindergarten and move through each grade level. This continuity helps strengthen learning and builds strong ties to the families.

R. L. Young, formerly known as Bemiston School, is proud of their yearly traditions. Beginning with a "Meet and Greet" in August, monthly PTO meetings and grade level performances, Fall Festival in October, American Education Week in November, Christmas Schoolwide Sing-a-long, Father/Daughter Dance in February, Mother/Son Fun Day, Forever Field Day in May, and wrapping of the year with our kindergarteners and sixth graders graduating. All of these

activities are open to parents and allow people the opportunity to see what is going on behind our doors.

(positive activities offered daily) R. L. Young gives students many opportunities to grow in character development. Each morning students lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance, Student Respect Pledge, and moment of silent reflection. The principal follows with announcements, including a quote of the week, birthday recognition, and shout outs for various achievements across the campus. This daily ritual keeps the communication flowing and everyone aware of school happenings.

Each week, Coach Stephens selects a STAR STUDENT of the Week. This student must be a bright, shining example of someone with high integrity. The winners are featured with Coach Stephens on the school's blog: [rlyoung.blogspot.com](http://rlyoung.blogspot.com). Monthly, a Good Citizen is selected from each classroom. This is a high honor that is rewarded with a spot at the Principal's Good Citizen

Luncheon in the Hardwork Café.

(Quality Education) The academic program at R. L. Young is quite impressive. The school is proud of the high achievement scores on state tests. The strong, devoted teaching staff uses progress monitoring data, student observation, small group instruction, and parent conferences to keep parents involved and informed. The very experienced teachers make learning fun and are always looking for ways to make every child successful.

Students take an active role in motivating themselves and others to achieve. Our Accelerated Reader Program is kicked off by students in the fall, classes compete for the Highest Comprehension Trophy each week, and children work hard to earn a spot on the Principal's Top 20 Board. Ambassadors from the sixth grade, serve in leadership roles throughout the school. The Accelerated Reader Program is a supplemental component to the school's reading series and provides the additional practice that makes our readers so proficient.

Honor Roll Assembly is held at the

end of each six weeks and parents are welcome to attend. Students are recognized for Perfect Attendance for the six weeks, A and A/B Honor Roll, A in conduct, most improved, and Accelerated Reader Achievements.

(School community Relations) Our school believes that producing well-rounded students is important. Almost every month students are given the opportunity to help the community in different ways. R. L. Young raises funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital, and takes up donations for Comfort from the Cold (blankets, quilts), First Family Services/Toys for Tots, and gathers supplies for the Talladega Animal Control. We also encourage them to remember their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, Bus Drivers/Maintenance Crew, PTO officers, and support staff/substitutes at R. L. Young.

To learn more about the happenings at R. L. Young, visit our school blog: [rlyoung.blogspot.com](http://rlyoung.blogspot.com) or check us out on facebook. ◀



# Zora Ellis Junior High

## Personally Responsible In Developing Excellence

Zora Ellis faculty, staff, and students are excited about this school year. We are working diligently to educate students so that they may reach their fullest potential. We strive to promote students who will be successful, responsible, and productive members of a unified society. Many events, projects, and activities are scheduled for this year.

Two exceptional groups have the privilege of representing Ellis at JUNA of Alabama. Ellis has participated in JUNA for 16 years; bringing home many awards. This year Ellis will be representing Russia. The Junior United Nations Assembly (JUNA) is a student-run model United Nations Assembly for Alabama students in grades 6, 7, and 8. For the past 16 years, JUNA has increased awareness of worldwide issues, demonstrated how the U.N. works, and emphasized the importance of diplomacy and problem solving among nations. More than 1,700 students from 50 schools have participated. The two day event includes a parade of nations, opening assembly, committee meetings, and General Assembly meetings in which resolutions are presented, discussed and voted upon. JUNA ends with a reception where awards are given and students' accomplishments are celebrated. Guided by their teacher sponsor, students research their nation, identify a problem or issue in that country, and write a resolution that proposes a solution to the problem. Resolutions are presented first in committees. Upon committee passage, resolutions are presented in General Assembly where delegates discuss, question and vote just as they do in the real United Nations. Students wear the native dress of their country and make a flag to use for recognition in the General Assembly. JUNA develops skills in public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership. Competition is set for March 12, 2014 at Birmingham Southern College.

Science teachers Mrs. Foy, Ms. Runyan, and Ms. Webb, in conjunction with Dr. Sh'a King (AMSTI), have created a Genome Cache. A genome cache is an interactive exploration of the human genome. The students will be introduced to the scale and scope of the human

genome and learn a variety of important gene regions. Genome Cache is a free app for iPhones, iPads, or iPod touch.

Using iPads, the seventh and eighth grade science students will go on a genomic "scavenger hunt." There are 15 stops at important gene regions. The students are given a location and clue to help them find each gene. Once correctly identified, they are provided with information about the gene and asked a biology related trivia question before moving on to the next stop along their path. Points are awarded for correctly identifying genes and answering trivia questions. A genome walk can be created in a local park, running track, gymnasium or hallway. Students at Ellis completed their scavenger hunt in the downstairs hall of the school.

Genome cache was developed by the Educational Outreach Department at the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, Alabama. Mrs. Foy and Ms. Webb were presenters at this year's ASTA Conference held at the McWane Science Center in Birmingham on February 18-19, 2014.



On February 10, 2014, the Zora Ellis Jr. High Band traveled to B.B. Comer High School to perform at the Talladega county Band Director's Association Concert Band Preview. This event was an opportunity for all the bands in Talladega County to come and perform in front of their peers. It also afforded the bands an opportunity to perform their program before the upcoming Music Performance Assessment (MPA) that will be held February 26-28 at Gadsden City High School. Ellis played three pieces:

Activity by Harold Bennett, Rising Star by Samuel Hazo, and The Tempest by Robert W. Smith. Each band performing received audio and written notes from adjudicators. These comments will be used to help propel each band into their last stretch of rehearsal before MPA. Zora Ellis will perform at the Music Performance Assessment on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.

On January 25th, the Ellis Emeralds traveled to Pell City High School to open their competitive winter guard season in the Southeastern Color Guard Circuit. Along with the Ellis Emeralds, the Dega Darlins of Talladega High School also competed at this event. Both groups performed their shows well. The Emeralds 2014 show is entitled "Dollhouse." Music is by Priscilla Renea. Choreography was created by Alex Horn and Amber Robinson, both members of the Dega Darlins. The Ellis Emeralds scored third place in the Cadet Class. Their next scheduled performance will be Saturday, February 22nd at Hoover High School.

Ellis Jr. High and its students are proud sponsors of the National Beta Club. Founded in 1934, the Beta Club is the largest educational youth organization in America. Students are recognized for outstanding academic achievement of A-B average, while developing leadership qualities into its members. The National Beta club lives by the motto and philosophy "Let Us Lead by Serving Others." Service is one of the aspects that is important to club membership. Our service project for the year will be to raise awareness of childhood cancer to help find a cure.

The National Junior Honor Society purpose is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship. Ellis currently has 14 active members. These members are involved in community service that includes peer tutoring, school ambassadors, and community clean up. This school year, NJHS will participate in Pennies for Patients and April In Talladega.

English teacher, Mrs. Paula Johnson and math teacher, Mrs. Pamala Irons are sponsors of The National Beta Club. The sponsors are currently making plans to take Beta members to SIFAT ( Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology) in Lineville, Alabama. SIFAT provides opportunities to learn hands-on skills in the development and use of appropriate



technologies around the world. Also, SIFAT had a global village with simulated dwellings that are specific to regions around the world.

Zora Ellis Jr. High Student Council consists of forty members. This organization provides school activities and acts as a voice for the students. The Council sponsors events such as the homecoming dance, movie day, and the annual academic awards banquet.

Early morning math tutoring is provided to students that need help by their peers. What began as only two students giving assistants to others needing help with homework or classwork, has expanded to five tutors and two classrooms.

Language Arts teachers are providing learning strategies and fun during Touchdown Tuesday. During this time selected students are introduced to learning strategies to strengthen critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Zora Ellis Archery Team is on the move. The initiator and coach of the team is Bradley Ward; he is assisted by Jeremy Sewell and many parent volunteers. This program has grown tremendously over the past two years because of student interest and great feeder programs from Young and Salter Elementary Schools. This year ninety students attended try-outs to compete for 32 available spots on the team. Last year the team finished fourth at regional competition and 17th at state. Already this year the team has improved their regional score by 167 points to place third in our regional which took place February 14th in Pell City. Despite all the complications with the weather, our archers have been working hard to prepare for these competitions. The archery program promotes discipline, provide individual and teamwork skills, and influences positive attitudes and behaviors that will last a lifetime. With the continued support of our school district and community, we expect great things to come from the growth of our archery program. ◀

# Talladega High Career Technical Center



Career Tech is in full swing for the 2013-2014 school year. The **Health Science** program has been busy with CERT certifications through the help and coordination provided by the EMA. Leigh Ann Butler, Emergency Management Specialist I / Planner, coordinated the student certifications through the help of Sylcauga Fire Department, Citizens BMC, and the

Anniston Army Depot. This allows our students to certify to become a part of Community Emergency Response Teams. Our **Welding** program is steadily credentialing students through the NCCER certification while our **IT academy** is providing MOS certification. Our **Precision Machining** and our **Agriscience** programs have teamed up again this year to compete in

the BEST Robotics Competition. This year the team placed 2nd in the BEST competition, 1st place for their Robot and they won several other awards. They are also working on building a greenhouse for our greenhouse production class that we are offering for the first time this school year. The Agriscience class will also have several students participating in FFA competitions in March. **Cosmetology** has been full of activity with Barbicide Certifications for its students and Mrs. Booker has been busy with the college courses she teaches at night through our partnership with Central Alabama Community College. Through Brian Gann's (former Director of Instructional Advancement at CACC) vision we were able to set up this partnership three years ago. It has already had over 150 students participate in the program. The **Family and Consumer Science** student organization, FCCLA, has been busy with fund raising in order to prepare for state competitions. They have already received the Chapter Membership Award, the Golden Chapter Award, and the Alabama Children First Award. They are looking forward to more competitions in March. The **Auto Technology** program has been busy in the shop working on live work projects and toward ASE certification. The program will be receiving a Chevy Tahoe through the GM Donations team this year. The **Army JROTC** Program has been involved in many activities and functions that have enabled the student cadets an opportunity to experience, learn, and serve in many facets of school and community life.

The end result is a student better prepared to serve as a productive member of our society and possessing a working knowledge of the expectations of an American citizen. In addition to normal classroom activities which focus on the

citizenship, character development, leadership and life skills, cadets have been immersed in many extra-curricular events and functions to further enhance and refine those skills in a multitude of varied settings. This includes competitive events such as drill, rifle team, and physical training (PT) team matches, and non-competitive events such as color guard performances, mentoring, and community service projects. Not only have the cadets participated in these events, but they have also excelled by performing at high levels. Just last spring, Talladega High cadets took top honors in a regional drill meet, receiving eleven trophies, one in each category in which they competed. Career Tech received a \$75,000 grant last year for a 21st century classroom. All programs will be allowed to use the new classroom and several plan to participate in virtual fieldtrips. Also this year, a grant for \$121,000 was awarded for a new Industrial Maintenance program that will begin in the 2014-2015 school year. Career Tech is alive and vigorous for the fiscal 2014 school year.

The Career Tech Department celebrated Career Tech month during February with many exciting and educational opportunities for our students, staff, and the community. The culminating activity for this event was held on Friday, February 14th. The department provided a luncheon for the Superintendent, Board Members, and other administrators and afterward they were taken on a tour of the facility. The Career Tech Director, Trisha Turner, is shown in this photo explaining to Board Member, Juanita McClellan, the programs offered to students who choose the technical path for their education. Mrs. Turner and her staff worked diligently during Career Tech Month to promote our exceptional program to the community, Board Members, and others as well. We want to thank all of them for a job well done!! ◀

# Talladega High

Talladega High School offers the best and most diverse educational opportunities in Talladega County and possibly in this area of the state. THS is the only high school associated with the Talladega City Board of Education and the City of Talladega. Being the only public high school, THS has an advantage over other school systems whose district office and city leadership must divide their attention to support multiple high schools. This increased level of focus from City of Talladega leadership and the Talladega City Board of Education results in a high school that offers the best in academics, career and technical education, and extra-curricular opportunities.

Talladega High School is currently going through what some might characterize as a “renaissance” regarding academic achievement. The most recent academic achievement of the city’s only high school was the achievement of another significant increase in high school graduation rate. Over the past five years THS has increased the percentage of student receiving a high school diploma to 80% for the class of 2013 which amount to a 17% increase over a low of 63% for the class of 2008.

In 2009, THS added an honors program that increased the academic requirements for graduation. This program increases academic rigor and in other schools sometimes results in less overall graduates. At THS the opposite has resulted with the honors program positively influencing student achievement. An important component of the THS honors program is concurrent or dual enrollment made possible by cooperative relationships with Central Alabama Community College and Talladega College which facilitates THS on-campus college credit opportunities. This academic year even more opportunities are available for THS to excel as plans are implemented for transition from the antiquated state developed “grad exam” based academic standards to a nationally researched and developed set of standards known as “College and Career Ready Standards” or CCRS. This transition requires schools to use a nationally normed test like the ACT instead of the old “grad exam” to measure student achievement. The faculty of Talladega High School sees this as a positive reform and is preparing students through a variety of initiatives that includes special ACT preparation opportunities during the month of March when the entire school will focus on preparing this year’s junior class for success on the ACT. THS academic programs



address all student achievement levels by demanding top level performance from both students and faculty.

The transition to the CCRS is a challenge for which the unique design of the campus of Talladega High School is almost tailor made. Talladega City Career Technical Center is connected to the “Round Palace” by a short span of sidewalk and allows our students to easily schedule into their four year high school plan to include career training as well as honors level core classes like physics and calculus. With our block schedule semester approach THS allows for 32 opportunities for high school credits when only 24 are required for graduation by the state. These increased opportunities allow all students even those who can be limited by extra-curricular requirements or honors level course requirements to get all the academics they need while exploring careers like cosmetology, veterinary science, agriculture, precision machining, automotive technologies, and welding technologies. State of the art equipment to include an actual 3D printer like one would see on the campus of MIT, all forms of welding equipment, a new cosmetology lab, a new greenhouse provide hands on experience and training for careers or occupations that may even help pay for that college degree. Other local school systems that have similar career training opportunities do not have the comprehensive offering THS maintains and they most often require travel that uses up valuable instructional time that precludes students that participate in extra-curricular activities or honors level academics. This feature of the campus at THS gives the school the best advantage in providing the best preparation not only for college but also for practical living.

The THS experience is not all academics or career preparation, but also includes extra-curricular activities that result in a well-rounded approach that produces the best citizens for our community. With the support of our board of education and our city council, opportunities like athletics, music, and dramatic arts are available for

all our students. The THS campus is alive year round with multiple athletic teams practicing and bands preparing for competition. In addition to county and area sports championships this year in volleyball and basketball, THS continues to maintain award winning programs like band, future business leaders, JROTC, and robotics. All of these programs have received recognition in county, area, and state level competition to include special recognition from the governor. THS’s drama club continues its cooperative relationship with the Ritz Theater this year with another theatrical production in which students experience performing in a historically significant theater under the direction of a professional theater director. This extra-curricular activity is another example of direct support of THS by City of Talladega leadership. All these opportunities and their accomplishments make the extra-curricular experience at THS an area of education in which Talladega High School and the City of Talladega exceeds expectation in providing the best in student educational opportunity.

The recent achievements at Talladega High School in the areas of academics, career and technical education, and extra-curricular opportunities are significant. While these areas are strong, plans continue to be made to make all programs and activities even stronger. THS Faculty and staff look forward to plans that would make possible expansion of services and environments offered to academically and behaviorally challenged students, education facility improvements, and athletic facility improvements. Talladega High School recognizes and emphasizes that continued cooperation and support from our parents, faculty, and community is the key to meeting our mission of “moving forward to meet the demand of a changing world.” ◀

