From the Superintendent’s Desk

October is a busy month in all of our schools. We invite our parents to be involved in some of the activities and open house programs going on this month, which is Parent Involvement Month in our school system and state. T.R. Simmons, Memorial Park and Maddox Intermediate will be inviting parents to be involved in student-led conferences. Students are setting goals and keeping up with their own grades, attendance and test data. Jasper Junior High and Jasper High will also be conducting Open House programs during the month. There are many ways to be involved in your child’s school and the administration are happy to help with this partnership.

We are thrilled that Memorial Park School was recently named a National Blue Ribbon School. Five Alabama schools are among the winners of the 2017 National Blue Ribbon for their exemplary performance on state assessments. The National Blue Ribbon award is the highest honor given by the U.S. Department of Education to a school. We realize all of our schools have the potential to be a National Blue Ribbon School because we have the best and most dedicated staff, students, family and community support in the entire state of Alabama!

Watch for more “What are you reading?” articles in upcoming newsletters. Thanks to Mayor David O’Mary for sharing his reading interests with us!

– Ann Jackson

We are Better Together!

Save the Date!

JASPER JR. HIGH HOMECOMING GAME
October 5th
7th grade @ 5:30 PM
8th grade @ 7 PM

JASPER HIGH HOMECOMING GAME
October 20th
@ 7 PM

HOLIDAY
Columbus Day
October 9th
No School
Enjoy time with family!

In this Issue:
• Blue Ribbon School
• School News
• What Are You Reading?
• From Our Principals
• Viking Athletics
Memorial Park Elementary is proud to announce our 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools nomination. Students, faculty, staff, parents, community members, central office employees and board members have all worked hard to lay a foundation that promotes learning.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized 342 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2017. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. “National Blue Ribbon Schools are active demonstrations of preparing every child for a bright future,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to the honorees. “You are visionaries, innovators and leaders. You have much to teach us: some of you personalize student learning, others engage parents and communities in the work and life of your local schools and still others develop strong and forward-thinking leaders from among your teaching staff.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap.

Memorial Park would like to say a huge “Thank You” to everyone that has invested in the lives of our students! A celebration was held with Sno-Cones for all!

Music Class with Mrs. Abbott
Second and third graders at Memorial Park School are learning to read music and use new instruments! 2nd graders are playing kazooos and 3rd graders are learning to play recorders. Those students who have music this semester are already practicing for their Veterans Day Program which will happen in November.
T.R. SIMMONS SCHOOL

On Friday, September 8th, our classrooms welcomed over 500 grandparents and guests. Students completed a craft with their family member. We also shared lemonade and cake with one another in the cafeteria. Grandparents took advantage of the opportunity to encourage the children in their learning. We know family involvement makes schools more effective.

On Tuesday, September 19th, our Pre-K students hosted local heroes at our 2nd annual First Responders Breakfast. Mrs. Barrera and Mrs. Rider led students in the pledge and reading of the children’s book titled September 12th. The students’ favorite part was eating breakfast with members of our fire department, police department, and Regional Paramedic Services. We appreciate our first responders and all they do to keep us safe.

On Tuesday, September 26th, our classrooms took part in Johnny Appleseed Day. Journal writings, stories, crafts, and even snacks are a part of this special apple themed day. Teachers take great pride in engaging their students as they seek to make learning fun.
Red Ribbon Week at Maddox – October 23-27

Another event we will be celebrating is Red Ribbon week in October. This is a fun dress up week.

Here is a list of our dress up days:

**MONDAY:** I am a “Jean-ius” – I am “Too Smart” for Drugs (wear your jeans and a RED shirt)
**TUESDAY:** Hats off to being drug free (wear cowboy hat)
**WEDNESDAY:** Don't let drugs tie you down (wear tie dye)
**THURSDAY:** Give drugs the boot (wear boots)
**FRIDAY:** Cowboy up against drugs (dress like a cowboy/cowgirl)

Mrs. Harrison is going full steam ahead with STEM - Science-Technology & Math activities with the PLTW- Project Lead the Way program! Fourth grade students have been learning coding and fifth and sixth grade students have been creating VEX simple machines! Hands-on learning is GREAT!
JASPER JR. HIGH

There are many exciting things happening at JJHS as we approach the end of the first nine weeks. Our newly implemented Robotics and Automation class, led by Mr. Whit Tucker, has been building a pull toy with multiple working mechanisms. Before the nine weeks is complete, the students will have learned how to use code to create commands for the gear systems. JJHS learners are using math, literacy, science, and collaboration skills to solve real-world problems. Students are also using many literacy and collaboration skills in classes such as geography, fine arts, science, and even math! Language arts classes honed our students’ leadership abilities with class book presentations.

Our athletes have been showing off their talents as well. Our varsity swim team made a huge splash with many of our 7th and 8th graders earning points for the team overall and even placing 1st and 2nd in their first competition! The JHS Cross Country Team is off to a great start! We have competed at 4 meets and we’ve had an excellent showing! Both JJHS girls and boys teams have had top finishers in every race! We are a young squad, and we are excited to see improvement at each meet. Our next race is at Fairview Town Park outside of Cullman on October 10th and we invite everyone to come and check out the action!

Our very own JJHS cheerleaders work hard to brighten our halls with school spirit signs, and our football team is improving every week! In case you missed it, we had several students who performed at the Foothills Festival. Jasper Junior High School is proud to have a wealth of students with diverse talents!

We are all better together!
Jasper High School

Athletics

Coach Daniels and the Viking Volleyball program are currently ranked 3rd in 6A according to the most recent ASWA polls. The Lady Vikes are on the state’s longest winning streak with a 24-0 record in their first season as Jasper High School. The team reached the elite eight last season and look poised to make a run at a championship this year.

The City of Jasper saw a first on Monday night, as our Jasper Natatorium hosted the first home high school swim meet in school history. A meet in which both the boys and girls teams were victorious by out-swimming Westminster, the 2nd place finisher.

Football is currently 2-3, with all losses coming against top ranked teams. The Vikes have dropped games against #1 Austin, #2 Pinson Valley, and perennial power Clay Chalkville. The Vikes traveled to Tuscaloosa defeating Northridge at their own Homecoming in an out of conference matchup. This was an exciting win for the Vikes!

Coach Harbin, Coach Kamplain, and the Viking Cross Country Team are off to a running start with strong finishes in our first three meets: at James Clemens Invitational, at UAH in the Randolph Classic Mud Run, and at The Kudzu Run in Bremen.

For all the latest news and notes on Jasper High School athletics, visit www.jaspervikingsports.com or follow us on twitter @jaspervikves. Also, you can catch livestream of all football games at www.tv16hd.com.

“Jasper will probably not be invited back to the Northridge Homecoming any time soon after the Vikings were crowned kings of the night in a hi-light filled 21-19 victory in front of a nice crowd on the banks of North River.”

-Jonathan Jordan
Congratulations to the newest members of the ACT 30+ Club! Scoring a 30 or above puts these students in the top 95th percentile nationally for all students who took the ACT. They were recognized for this accomplishment at a Jasper City Schools' Board Meeting.

One student - Zachary Calen Stewart earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT.

All of these students should be commended for their hard work and dedication to excellence!

ACT 30+ Students: Morgan Aldridge, Chase Cross, Corey Davidson, Matthew Delay, Tanner Dickson, Patrick Dutton, Grayson Ivey, Mason Myrick, Calen Stewart, Jacob Studdard, Jakob Wilson, Scott Misso, Emily Pridemore.

Mayor David P. O'Mary is reading *Lincoln on Leadership* written by Donald T. Phillips

“Mr. Phillips has served in leadership positions at Mobil Corp. and Tenneco, Inc. Currently, he serves as a consultant in the field of leadership development.

No president in America’s history encountered more challenges than President Abraham Lincoln. As we know today, President Lincoln turned in a stellar performance. The book provides sage advice for anyone serving in a leadership role.” – David P. O'Mary
The Mum Sale was a big success. We sold over 4,500 mums this year! We raised $27,000. The money raised will be used for school improvement. Thank you for all your support. The month of October will be busy. There are several opportunities for parents and guardians to participate in school events. Please look for the school newsletter in your child’s backpack!

Thank you again parents for all your support!

Go Vikes!

Mr. Marc Sargent, Principal

FROM OUR PRINCIPALS

T.R. Simmons School
Mr. Jonathan Allen, Principal

In October, our teachers will be giving multiple opportunities for parents to be involved in their child’s learning. Over 30 years of educational research support the connection between parental engagement and student academic achievement. As a part of the State’s Family Engagement Month, we invite parents to ask questions, and be involved in our school, as we partner to cultivate an even stronger relationship between our school and the families we serve. By checking your child’s black folder as it comes home each night, you will receive information regarding student-led conferences in October. We look forward to a wonderful opportunity for your child to share experiences from this school year, progress monitor their learning gains, and review goals for this year.

Memorial Park School
Mr. Eric Rigsby, Principal

The start of the school year has been amazing. Students and staff are hard at work each and every day. It is amazing at how much our students have achieved academically since August. Parents, please continue to support our teachers and be involved in your student’s education. We are very appreciative of the hard work you put in each and every day with your students. Please continue to check your student’s folder each night for communication. Also, a great way to support your student and teacher is to read with your student each night.

Parents, please be aware of the upcoming dates and activities at MPS:
October 18 –Report cards go home for the 1st 9-weeks
October 20 –Homecoming
October 27 –MPS Fall Festival
October 30 –November 3: Red Ribbon Week–Look for more information about dress up days as we get closer.

Maddox Intermediate School
Mr. Marc Sargent, Principal

The Mum Sale was a big success. We sold over 4,500 mums this year! We raised $27,000. The money raised will be used for school improvement. Thank you for all your support. The month of October will be busy. There are several opportunities for parents and guardians to participate in school events. Please look for the school newsletter in your child’s backpack!

Thank you again parents for all your support!

Go Vikes!
FROM OUR PRINCIPALS

Jasper Jr. High School

Mr. Lutis Moore, Principal

Jasper Junior High is looking forward to celebrating our 1st JJHS Homecoming on October 5th. Homecoming week kicks off with a NEON Dance Party on Monday, October 2nd. This will be followed by dress up days. These include Tie-Dye Tuesday, Wear Your Hat Wednesday, Spirit Day Thursday, and Pink Out on Friday. Student athletes will be recognized at our Homecoming Pep Rally on Thursday, October 5th.

We are always working to provide the best for our students and our community! Go Vikes!

Jasper High School

Dr. Bart Reeves, Principal

As September draws to a close, we begin making plans for an eventful October. Midterms will take place the 2nd week of October. Please be watching for more information from your child.

Homecoming is just around the corner and is always a special time of the year for all Vikings. Homecoming and the homecoming parade will all be held on October 20 with the parade taking place downtown at 1pm. Jasper Vikings will be taking on Carver at 7pm with the Homecoming dance to follow.

Juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to visit Auburn and UNA during the month of October as they begin making preparations for college. And seniors will be meeting with Balfour representatives in October and November as they continue to prepare for graduation.

As always, Go Vikes!

Upcoming JHS Football Games

10/6/17 Center Point @ HOME
10/13/17 Gardendale - Away
10/20/17 Carver @ HOME
10/27/17 Minor - Away
RAISE THE SAIL!

XC Performs Well at Kudzu Run

VIRESQUAD

Varsity Volleyball Succeeds at Hoover Despite Suffering First Loss

9th Grade Wins Silver Bracket in JV Tourney