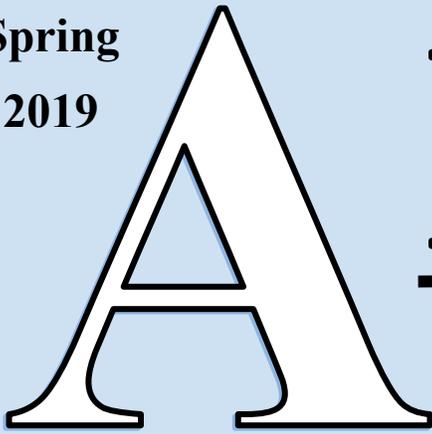


Spring
2019



Vol. 67 No. 3

Alabama

Elementary Administrator

Alabama's 2019 National Distinguished Principal



Dr. Michael Wilson



Congratulations Alabama District Distinguished Principals



District I
Matt Scott
Creekside Primary
Limestone county



District II
Stan Stokley
Saraland Elementary
Mobile County



District V
Carrie Yancey
John S. Jones Elementary
Etowah County



District VII
Pam Fourtenbary
West Forest Intermediate
Opelika City



Alabama NDP
Michael Wilson
District IV
Glen Iris Elementary
Birmingham City



District VIII
Mark Doherty
Daphne East Elementary
Baldwin County



District IX
Teresa Sims
Troy Elementary
Troy City



District X
Shelia Jones
Hazel Green Elementary
Madison County

Thank You, AAESA



Frances Finney *Grantswood Community* *Jefferson County*

AAESA, THANK YOU, for allowing me to serve as your President for the 2018-2019 school year! There have been many highlights that I would like to share with you that have

made a difference for our profession as Principals of Elementary schools in Alabama. It is truly an honor to serve.

Being AAESA's CLAS Leadership Award Nominee began my Presidency in June 2018. We work for our students, faculties, staff and community to bring the leadership needed for every instance of every day without wanting or needing recognition; yet it is an awesome day when we can affirm our work with the people around us.

Attending CLAS Summer Conference, NAESP National Convention in Orlando and presiding over our AAESA Fall Conference in Orange Beach has given me the opportunity to network with so many principals in Alabama and around the United States. Meeting and having the opportunity to talk with several of our Keynote speakers has helped me have new and innovative ways to continue to adjust my leadership style for the betterment of our school.

Representing AAESA when Governor Ivey signed a declaration naming October Alabama Principals' Month, and being a part of NAESP National Leaders Conference in Washington DC for two years where we have learned so much about advocacy. We should always be advocates for our schools.

In a historic vote, we are no longer a Joint State with NAESP, we gained 102 AAESA members allowing us to have an additional seat on the CLAS Board of Directors! Also, we were in the green when all bills were paid for our Fall Conference, and we voted to place some of our funds in CDs to earn a higher rate of interest.

Lastly, I want you to know that no one surprises me ever! I say this because during an October visit from

Todd Diefenderfer, our Lifetouch Photography Territory Manager surprised me when he announced that I was chosen from over 1,200 applicants to be a part of



the Lifetouch Memory Mission in Puerto Rico, a United States Territory destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2015. The week of January 21-29, the forty-two participants from all over the country-experienced life-changing feelings while working to help a school rebuild in Juncos, Puerto Rico. A group of strangers came together for a perceived cause truly became a calling. A call to work alongside of our new found Puerto Rican friends. It was an adventure we will never forget!



What we do every day as educators touch the lives of so many. Most of the time we do not realize how. Until much later when we get a call, note or graduation invite.

Yet in this instance, it's not often we have the opportunity to come face to face with individuals with real life needs and are given the opportunity to make a real difference in their lives. Our perceived trip goals of building a damaged school were found to be so much more. They became partners, allies for a common goal. Many chiefs in our normal line of work be-

Thank You, AAESA cont'd

came worker bees and completed more than they ever expected us to do.

The adults in this Juncos Community of Collegio Bautista worked with us, served us lunch every day and a couple of dinners. Always serving us, as we continually wanted to learn about their story, and serve them. They were the storytellers of how they managed, stuck together and made the best of the situations they experienced over the last seven year! I never heard anyone speak ill of anyone or his or her situation. Hurricane Maria happened in September 2015...they were without electricity for 7-8 months, and 3-4 months without water. They said it felt like an eternity before they were able to see all the destruction. Yet, they began immediately to clean, help & make due. Think about it. Everyone says Americans have it made. Citizens of Juncos are Americans. They lived a simple life and it was destroyed. They are the superheroes!

Power companies began assisting Puerto Rico as soon as it was safe. Yet the damage still took almost a whole year to get basic services turned back on because of their infrastructure and the massive destruction. Can you imagine going this long without electricity or water? What about having no lights at Christmas? All normal life activities stopped. Their priorities changed. Yet they found a way to have a life, and school.

We had the opportunity to become the photographers for their school picture day. An event that they have not experienced in many years! It was really touching seeing all the children's smiles! To repair the school we cut down several trees and stumps, demolished a building that was too damaged to save, took down fencing and replaced it with new, rebuilt a concrete brick wall that is around their sports court, completed painted one building, took down a storage unit so we could extend the concrete wall, replaced the broken basketball goal, and built a playground. Sound easy? We used, axes, hammers, sledgehammers, crowbars, and mixed concrete made of sand, concrete mix, rock and water with shovels. We used wheelbarrows and buckets to move everything. Yet, again, there was constant gratitude. Kindergarteners asking if we were the ones fixing their school in Spanish or very broken English. Having time to observe or partic-

ipate in class activities and just listening to the students' hurricane and daily stories. Running up and giving us hugs, thrilled to have bubbles, cards, soccer balls, basketballs, & Frisbees, always excited that we took time to play with them. This experience was a gift of building relationships, accomplishing many projects, yet by getting our hands dirty, we became vulnerable and very humble. On Sunday, we attended church service with the community and celebrated with Juncos how much we all accomplished. We truly



learned to be better human beings.

My favorite quote is, "When a collection of brilliant minds, hearts and talents come together...expect a masterpiece." Always remember, AAESA creates masterpieces for our students every day. When given the opportunity to serve, take it you have no idea what a great ride it will be!

Thank you for these experiences. Thank you to our Executive Board, District Presidents and Representatives, our Assistant Executive Director Rickey Darby and CLAS Executive Director Vic Wilson for all you do! Finally, yet, not least, thank you JefCoEd for allowing



me to serve in this capacity!

NAESP Supports Leaders



Matt Kiser
Edgewood Elementary
Homewood City

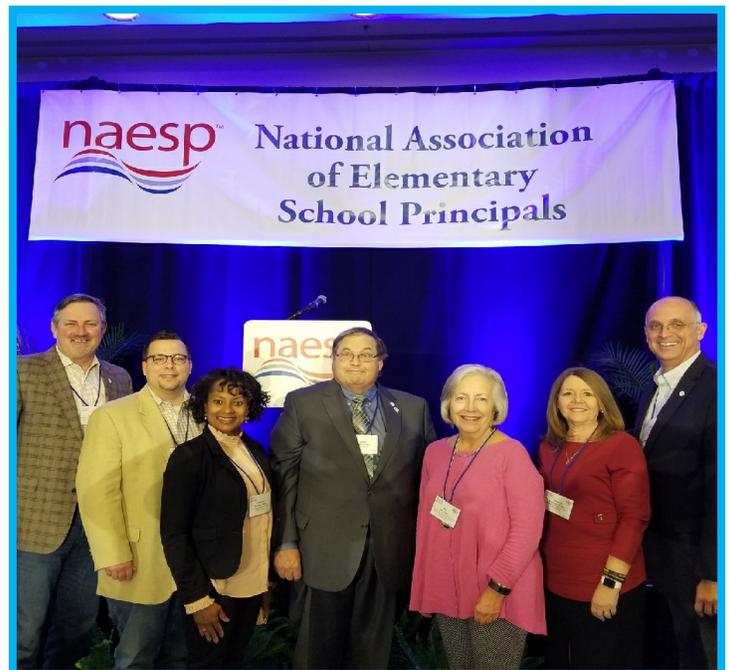
The NAESP will host leaders from all over the United States March 17th-20th, 2019 for the National Leaders Conference.

During the visit to Washington, members of the NAESP will be provided with dynamic professional development related to pertinent topics for elementary leaders. It is estimated that over 200 elementary and Middle School leaders participated in the National Leaders Conference in 2018 and that number is expected to increase. During the three-day event, participants will hear speakers from across the country discussing timely topics spanning from general best practices in school leadership, policy development, and key research pertinent to current leaders. Members of the NAESP will meet with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to discuss key topics relevant to public education in our state and across the country. It is always the goal of the leadership of the NAESP to help bring about legislation that positively impacts federal education funding, specifically in regards to Title I and Title II funding through advocacy and communication. We are looking forward to a great opportunity to synergize with national leaders regarding important topics related to education.

In terms of state participation at the National Leaders Conference, AAESA will be well-represented. The delegation in Washington, D.C. will include Jill Eaton, David Fancher, Dr. Michael Wilson,, Frances Finney, Ricky Darby, Dr. Vic Wilson, and Dr. Matt Kiser. The

group will work closely with leaders from across the country to help develop skills, strategies, and insights that would be able to be used right here in the state of Alabama. The AAESA delegates will split time with members of the House and Senate during our time on Capitol Hill. Many connections will be made with leaders from across the country that will ultimately help our association be its very best!

As we look towards the summer, please make efforts to attend the National Principal's Conference in Spokane, Washington July 10-12 at the Spokane Convention Center. The keynote speaker of the event will be Razia Jan, Michael Fullan, and Kwame Alexander. Each of these speakers are well known across the country for their research and experiences. AAESA members Dr. Matt Kiser and Mrs. Laura Tate will be presenting at the conference regarding the use positive behavior supports in schools to improve the overall culture and climate of the school. The NAESP has a wonderful lineup of speakers and presenters that will be able to meet the needs of modern educational leaders. Make sure to register for this wonderful event!





As one of the largest educational conferences dedicated to elementary and middle-level principals, **NAESP** is thrilled to bring together industry experts, researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to collaborate on innovative solutions today's educators face.

#NAESP19 Keynote Speakers



RAZIA JAN

Global Education: Alike Yet Different



MICHAEL FULLAN

Leadership for Deep Learning



KWAME ALEXANDER

Be Constructive with Your Blues: Seven Life Lessons Learned from Inspiring Teachers and Principals

Join us this summer for three days of premiere professional learning, with more than 100 educator-developed sessions built around four core areas of learning:

- Innovative Technology and Techniques
- Instructional Leadership
- Arrays of Management
- Ethics/Equity in School

REGISTER NOW • NAESPCONFERENCE.ORG

Benefits of NAESP



Matt Kiser
Edgewood Elementary
Homewood City

In addition to a wide [variety of membership benefits](#), including \$2 million legal protection, advocacy, resources, networking, and professional development, NAESP also offers the following benefits to support Pre-K-8 administrators.

Save money on school and office supplies

Receive up to 80% off on thousands of items at Office Depot/OfficeMax. Shop online or in-person and also get free next-day delivery for online orders that are \$50 or more. Learn more about the Office Depot program [here](#).

Monthly Webinars

Join us once a month for our [Webinars](#) hosted by top-names in the field. Connect directly with the speakers or if you are short on time, you can download the audio file and listen to it at your convenience.

New Travel Discounts!

NAESP now offers discounts on rental cars from [Hertz](#),* special rates at [Wyndham hotels](#),** and special offers with [TNT Vacations](#)*** and [HotelEngine](#).**** Take advantage of these savings and make your time-off even more enjoyable.

Significant Discounts on a Variety of Insurance AND Great Rates on ID Shield and Legal Shield

NAESP members receive significantly discounted rates on [insurance programs](#) provided through Forrest T. Jones. In addition, NAESP members can be protected from identity theft with ID Shield and have access to personal legal support with Legal Shield.

Celebrate Special Occasions with Special Deals from FTD.

NAESP offers savings on items such flowers, gift

baskets, and more with our affinity partner FTD.

Enjoy Healthy, Quick Meals at the End of the Day with Freshly

NAESP new affinity partner, [Freshly](#), offers chef-prepared, all-natural gourmet meals through a weekly subscription model. Their menu is designed using whole, natural ingredients and meals never contain gluten, refined sugars, or artificial additives. Get a healthy dinner delivered to your door and heat it up in 3-minutes.

** Hertz: you save up to 25% when you reserve a rental car online, by phone or walk into a Hertz airport or neighborhood location. Save this CDP and use it anytime, anywhere – it never expires and can be used as often as you need it.*

***Wyndham Hotels:As a member of **NAESP** you will receive up to 20% off the “Best Available Rate” at over 7,500 participating locations worldwide.*

****TNT Vacations: With more than 900 destinations in Mexico, Hawaii, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. as well as more airlines and thousands of more hotels to choose from your trip will be more enjoyable with the ease planning it. With your exclusive 5% member discount and “Price Match Plus” you’re guaranteed to have the most cost efficient trip, or we’ll match it! All-in-One Travel Protection allows you to change or cancel your reservation, with no fees, and full monetary return.*

*****Hotel Engine: a private hotel booking platform that provides members with deeply discounted hotel rates.*



**National Association of
Elementary School
Principals**

Federal Relations



David Fancher

Retired

With the shift in the majority in the House, It is becoming an interesting time in D.C. Also as shown by the number of Presi-

dential candidates that have already declared for the 2020 elections there are even more exciting times ahead. For the Senate seat held by Doug Jones, Representative Byrne has announced that he will be a candidate for that seat. This list is expected to grow and includes discussion of if Sessions will enter the race. In December he stated that he had no interest in running.

The Alabama delegation is becoming one of the more senior delegations. This has placed them on many of the more powerful committees. You recently saw Senator Shelby playing the major role in the compromise funding act to keep the federal government open. Our representatives and their assignments are below.

Senator Shelby

Chair Appropriations, Environment and Public works,

Senator Jones

Health Education and Labor, Homeland security,
Banking Housing Urban Affairs

Rep. Sewell

Vice Chair Ways and Means, House Committee on
Intelligence

Rep. Byrne

Education and Labor, Armed Services

Rep. Rogers

Homeland Security, Armed Services

Rep. Brooks

Science Space Technology, Armed Services

Rep. Roby

Appropriations (sub comm education), Judiciary

Rep. Aderholt

Appropriations

Rep. Palmer

Transportation and Infrastructure

Some of the current issues in Washington that will affect education are;

Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) have introduced the “Rebuild America’s Schools Act. The legislation would support investing \$100 billion over 10 years in school infrastructure, including digital access.

The revision of the budget control act is seen as being very important to education. The act placed caps on federal spending. It was suspended for a two year period that ends with the 2019 budget. The current Non-Defense budget is \$597 billion. The federal funding of education is 2% of this. If the caps are not removed, the 2020 budget for this area will be capped at \$542 billion a 9% reduction. Funding for education is part of a bill that includes health care funding. If representatives have to choose between cutting health funding or education, the cuts to education could be much larger. This is why NAESP is pushing for removal of the caps.

Rep Bobby Scott chair of the House Education and Labor committee has introduced the “Keeping All Students Safe Act”. The current version of the bill would make it illegal for schools that receive tax dollars to use seclusion. It would also limit the use of restraint. In the committee hearings on February 28th, there was much discussion on the lack of states regulating this and many heartbreaking examples were shared. The committee chairperson in closing statements charged the committee with setting minimum standards to protect students and school staff.

Executive Director's Report



Vic Wilson
AAESA
Executive Director

Dr. Wilson was given the news on February 28, 2019, at a surprise assembly at his school. As you know, Stan

Stokley, Matt Scott, and Michael Wilson were the finalists for this honor, and the selection committee had a daunting task to get this down to one. That winner is Dr. Michael Wilson. Dr. Wilson has 27 years in education in Alabama, and he works hard every day to lead all stakeholders and students at Glen Iris Elementary. In addition to his principal duties, Dr. Wilson finds the time to lead his professional organization, AAESA, where he serves as the President-Elect for 2018-2019.

The announcement event yesterday was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Rickey Darby, the administrative team at Glen Iris, and Birmingham City Schools Superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring. This event would not be possible without the support of our NDP partners. **Classworks** and **Interior Elements** provide financial support to make this a great event for the Alabama NDP. Many thanks to Pam Mills and Pamela Franco from Classworks and Dan Chappell from Interior Elements for their support in this very meaningful process.

Classworks provides funding to help offset the cost of awards/recognition for the winner as well as the cost for the winner's trip to Washington, DC, for the national event. Interior Elements provides a complete office makeover for the NDP. Thank you to both partners for the support, and congratulations to Dr. Wilson for this well deserved honor. Dr. Michael Wilson will also represent Alabama at the National NDP event this fall in Washington, DC.

The 2019 Legislative Session Begins on March 5, 2019, and all AAESA members will need to be engaged in the legislative process. The number one factor in this process is engaging legislators in the home district, and who better to discuss the needs of elementary schools than elementary administrators. Please stay abreast of the issues on a regular basis, and don't hesitate to let us know when you have questions. You can check our website for updates and upcoming events including our CLAS Hill Days during the session. If you have a question about one of the events, please contact Susie Ellison, Rickey Darby or me, and we can help with an answer.

Additionally, mid-March will find the AAESA leaders in Washington during the annual Leaders Conference. During this event, we will engage the congressional and senate delegations from Alabama in an effort to impress upon them the importance of sound educational policy. Dr. David Fancher has done an excellent job working for you all to keep us abreast of national legislation impacting education. Updates will be forthcoming in future Friday and Legislative Updates.

Good luck to all of you during the very busy second semester. Your job as the leader is critical as you work to help everyone under your care have a strong finish to the year. Please let us know if we can help with this in any way.



To find our Twitter page, search for [@AAESACLAS](#) while logged in to your Twitter account



To find our Facebook page, search for [Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators](#) while logged in to Facebook

Meet Your District VIII President



Dana Bottoms
W. J. Carroll
Intermediate
Ozark City

of W. J. Carroll Intermediate School. She has been in education for 25 years. Three years in the Mobile County Public School System and the remaining years in the Baldwin County Public School System. She has been the principal at her current school for 15 years. She has actually been on this school site since 1997. She was an integral part of the construction of the new facility and name change from Daphne Elementary School South to it being named in honor of Walker J. Carroll who was a principal on the site for thirty-one years at the Baldwin County Training School.

Dana received her bachelor's from the University of South Alabama (USA) where she graduated with the distinction of magna cum laude. She began her teaching career as a third-grade teacher at Elizabeth Fonde Elementary and immediately enrolled at USA to earn her master's degree with a 4.0 GPA. When teaching at Daphne Intermediate, she received her Instructional Leadership Certification in 2004 also from USA with a 4.0 GPA. She then began her career as the Assistant Principal at Perdido Elementary for one year followed by her promotion to the Principal of Daphne Elementary South (aka Daphne Intermediate and W. J. Carroll Intermediate).

Dana grew up in Daphne, Alabama. She values her community and the fact that she gets to play such an integral part in the education of so many of its citizens. She loves having an historical view of the city because it helps in relations with the community, City Council and Mayor.

Dana and her school family chose three years ago to begin the process of *Leader in Me* by Franklin Covey. She believes the teaching of the 7 habits of highly effective people is the best means of building the

character of her students and helping them find their voice. She has seen so many students find their "genius" through this process. She also hopes with the continued diligence of her faculty and staff, the collaboration of feeder pattern school principals, the support of the City Council, and SEEDS (local enrichment foundation) it will become even more widespread.

Away from school, Dana likes to participate in fitness and fun. Dana has been involved in fitness related activities all of her life. In her youth, she played softball, Mrs. Dana Bottoms serves as the principal volleyball, cheered, ran cross country, played tennis, danced, swam and dove competitively. As an adult, she has completed several triathlons, half marathons, and five marathons. She attributes her accomplishments to learning how to set goals in athletics early in life especially through the competitive sport of swimming. Dana likes to spend time boating with family and friends on the waters of the Gulf Coast. She states that fitness and fun are what provides her the ability to decompress after a busy and sometimes stressful work week.



Student Council in the Elementary School



Tim Dollar
Wilmer Elementary
Mobile County

As Elementary school administrators we have the responsibility of guiding students as they take their first

steps in the lifelong search for knowledge. We make sure they learn proper behavior and the necessary skills to prepare them for advanced learning later in their educational journey. Aside from academics, what tools are available to assist administrators in leading students down the correct path? How about starting an elementary student council? Student Council provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, learn organization and work together as a team. It also prepares them for positions in student government as they advance.

If you have not been involved in a student council, you may be wondering what a student council does. According to the (ASCA) American Student Council Organization, “the Student Council serves as a democratic way for the students of your school to have a voice in the school and to give back to the school and the community. Student Council allows every student’s ideas to be heard—it builds school community.”

One task of an elementary student council is to help plan service projects to assist the school and community. These projects will vary based

on what the student council chooses. With the assistance of faculty and/or volunteers the student council will select a service project, plan and organize all aspects of the project and then implement the project. These activities are usually fun and don’t require an extreme amount of planning.

This school year the Wilmer Elementary Student Council has chosen several service projects in order to give back to the community. The first project was a short term service project which involved collecting cleaning supplies, bottled water and pet supplies for the victims of Hurricane Michael, which wrecked Mexico Beach, Florida and surrounding communities this past October.



Many student councils may choose year-long service projects that assists those in need in the local community, such as the one chosen by Wilmer Elementary for the 2018-2019 School Year. The council is leading the school in collecting clothing, food and toiletry items for The Mission of Hope and The Haven of Hope. These are residential homes for men and women who are

Student Council in the Elementary School cont'd

fighting to overcome an addiction to drugs or alcohol. In addition, the council may also plan holiday events for students such as Polar Express Day or provide snacks and surprise items to faculty during Teacher Appreciation Week.

There are also group activities that can be organized by district or area. Each year in AAESA District II we offer a student council workshop at The University of South Alabama which is co-sponsored by SARIC. This workshop allows the Elementary Student Council Association Members in District II the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other student council chapters, learn about student council issues and discover their own leadership potential.



While these are just a few examples, the variety of service projects and activities possible are limited only by the students' imaginations and the administrator's nerves.

If you would like to learn more about starting a student council chapter at your elementary school, the NAESP/ASCA website has lots of information available. The website will provide the answers to many of the questions you may be

asking. What's involved in starting a chapter? How do we organize elections? Who needs to organize the installation ceremony? What documents will I need?

You may click on the following link for additional information. <https://www.naesp.org/asca>



Opportunities for Professional Learning



Rickey Darby
AAESA Assistant
Executive Director

I am proud to report that this has been a banner year for our professional organization.

We have seen our organization increase state membership in all categories (additional 62 active, 28 aspiring, and 11 retired). If you are reading this as a new member, we welcome you to our professional organization. If the old adage, an organization is only as strong as its membership is true, AAESA is on track to be stronger than ever in 2019. As we increase in membership, we gain more opportunities to network and collaborate with one another. In addition, we had a very financially successful fall conference that provided opportunities for our members to participate in professional learning and networking.

Elementary administrators are provided opportunities for professional learning through their membership in CLAS, AAESA, and NAESP. In addition to the various formats for on-site sessions, there are electronic deliveries and publications that provide opportunities to administrators who are not able to leave their schools.

As a subscriber to the Leadership Series with CLAS, your system can send unlimited administrators and teachers for half day professional learning on timely topics. This year CLAS has continued to try to ensure convenience by offering repeated sessions in different areas of the state. There are two sessions remaining for this year. In March, the topic will be Mental Health in Schools. Sessions will be held in Mobile, Auburn, Birmingham, and Huntsville. The final session for the year will be in April with the topic, Disrupting Poverty to Create High Performing Schools. These sessions will be held in Mobile,

Prattville, and Huntsville and provide opportunities for administrators to take teachers to hear presentations to share with their staffs.

The Lunch and Learn series for this year has two remaining electronic forty-five-minute sessions. In April, the topic will be Understanding Dyslexia. This year's sessions end in May with Solutions for Summer Learning Loss. These are valuable opportunities for professional learning without leaving your building.

Again, this year, I had the opportunity to be involved in the two-day assistant principal conferences in Orange Beach, Huntsville, and Prattville. We had approximately 270 assistant principals from across the state heard inspiring and relevant messages. These leadership sessions included topics such as special education, student discipline, AdvanEd, managing difficult people, school safety, communication using technology, and thriving in school administration. If an assistant principal did not attend this conference, I encourage them to watch for the dates of next year's conference. CLAS and AAESA prides themselves on the development of the future of our buildings by supporting and encouraging the next generation of principals.

This summer the CLAS Convention will be June 9-12th at the Renaissance Montgomery. The theme of this year's convention is "Power of the Past – Leadership of the Future." The scheduled keynote speakers include Joe Sanfelippo, Jimmy Casas, and Adolph Brown, III. The CLAS staff is planning a relevant conference with applicable sessions and opportunities for networking with administrators from across the state. The conference provides administrators with the possibility to complete and earn necessary PLU's.

The NAESP Pre-K-8 Principals' Conference will be held July 10-12th in Spokane, Washington. The convention keynote speakers include Razia Jan, Michael Fullan, and Kwane Alexander. The content strands this year include the following: Innovative Strategies Through Technology and Techniques, Instructional Leadership, Arrays of Management, and

Opportunities for Professional Learning cont'd

Ethics/Equity in Schools. The NAESP staff led by Gail Morgan, formerly of CLAS, has planned for an outstanding conference for administrators. The NAESP website, www.naespconference.org, contains more information and details about the conference. In addition to over 100 sessions to attend, you will have opportunities to network with elementary administrators.

This fall the AAESA Fall Conference will be at Perdido Beach Resort on Nov. 18-20, 2019. Mark your calendar and save the new date; you will receive more information in the future. Plan to attend this conference with other elementary administrators from across the state and engage in valuable, collaboration conversations.

Administrators have the opportunity for professional learning through the publications provided by NAESP. *Principal Insights* (formerly *Before the Bell*) is NAESP's twice-weekly electronic newsbrief

which provides stories to keep you both informed to lead your school. **Principal:** NAESP's magazine is written specifically for K-8 principals. Members receive a printed edition and have full access to archived issues.

In closing, please remember your membership in our professional organizations provides opportunities to meet the needs of your daily professional learning in the local schools and across the state.

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them." -John Maxwell

Meet Your District I President



Matt Scott
Creekside Primary
Limestone County

Matt Scott is currently the Principal at Creekside Primary in Harvest, AL (525 students). Matt has served as the Principal at Creekside for the last

15 years. Matt is in his 23rd in education.

Matt is married to Ashley Palmer Scott (also a teacher) of Baton Rouge, LA. The Scotts have 2 children, a 16 year old son and a 13 year old daughter.

Before becoming Principal, Matt served as a teacher, coach and assistant principal in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Madison at the elementary, middle school, high school and univer-

sity levels.

Matt is very active in his professional community in the state and at the national level. Matt has been a member of Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) and the National Association Elementary Principals Association (NAESP) for the past 18 years. Matt is the District 1 President and serves on the executive board for AAESA in Alabama.

In 2015, Matt completed his National Principal Mentor certification through NAESP and has already put this certification to work by mentoring new principals for the past 3 years.

Matt feels very blessed to be able to wake up every morning and just go to school. "I have never felt like teaching was like going to work because I enjoy it so much. Going to school every day is a blessing because we are able to lead kids and help mold their future by making a positive difference in their lives. Teaching and loving students is truly a lifetime reward for all educators."

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Congratulations to Our Newly Elected Officers

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Judith Ross

Busch Hills Academy
Birmingham City

CLAS Board of Directors

Tricia Culpepper

Cullman Primary
Cullman City

Charlie Gardner

Hokes Bluff Elementary
Etowah County

Waller Martin

Enterprise Early Education Center
Enterprise City

Dil Uswatte

Rocky Ridge Elementary
Hoover City

Developing Young Mentors

When the student becomes the teacher, a whole new world of learning opens. Near-peer mentoring, in which a student provides advice and insights to a protégé who is one or two years younger, is a wonderful opportunity for students to grow and learn together.

Benefits to Older Students

Developing leadership skills. Student mentors feel empowered when they see themselves as role models. With younger students looking up to them, they take on the responsibility to provide a stellar example.

Increased self-esteem. When younger students ask questions and request advice, student mentors can build their confidence through meaningful engagement.

Benefits to Younger Students

Increased motivation. Some students can fly under the radar. With a near-peer mentor, each child can receive individual attention that inspires them to participate more in class.

Relatable insights. Student mentors might be young, but they have great wisdom to impart, since they have experienced some of the same challenges as their mentees recently. They can also be more approachable than a teacher or principal.

Watson: A Resource for Near-Peer Learning and Leadership

Complement near-peer learning in your classrooms—or get started with it—by making *The Watson Anthology* part of your curriculum. This unique resource from the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) is a collection of student-created narratives chronicling the adventures of the cherished NEHS mascot, Watson the bear. Each story is aligned with one of NEHS' membership "pillars"—scholarship, responsibility, service, and leadership.

These engaging stories make wonderful read-aloud pieces for students, and they spark meaningful conversation following each exercise. Available exclusively to NEHS-affiliated schools, the anthology is based on lesson plans aligned with English Language Arts standards, as well as age-appropriate standards from the American School Counselor Association.

Help your school sustain a culture of achievement by becoming an affiliate of NEHS and bringing this tradition of excellence to your students.

Visit the [NEHS website](#) to take the first step.

—Dateline NAESP

FUTURE EVENTS

CLAS Convention

June 9-12, 2019

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel
at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama

NAESP Pre-K-8 Conference

July 10-12, 2019

Spokane Convention Center

Spokane, Washington

AAESA Fall Instructional Leadership Conference

November 18-20, 2019

Perdido Beach Resort

Orange Beach, Alabama

A Leadership Shift

The “what” and “how” of thinking pre-K–3.

Research has proven what educators have long known: Quality early childhood learning experiences set students up for a lifetime of academic success, and without a smooth transition in the early grades, achievement gaps only widen over the years. While investment in aligned systems that provide a continuum of learning for children from birth through grade 3 has gained momentum, a critical component remains an area for growth: professional learning opportunities to understand the “what” and the “how” of pre-K–3 principal leadership.

Principals must rethink their connection to early childhood education, especially as it relates to leadership competencies such as:

- Embracing the pre-K–3 early learning continuum;
- Ensuring developmentally appropriate teaching;
- Providing personalized learning environments;
- Using multiple measures of assessment to guide student learning; and

Making school a hub for families and communities. And finally, the concept of “building professional capacity across the learning community” is woven throughout these competencies, which are outlined in *Leading Pre-K–3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice* (NAESP, 2014).

Learning Continuum, Learning Community

Embracing the early learning continuum includes, among other strategies, expanding the concept of the “learning community” to include community-based preschool programs such as social service agencies, parents, and churches.

For example, across the country, more than 400,000 children enter kindergarten from Head Start programs

each year. NAESP recently urged education leaders to use October—National Principals Month and National Head Start Awareness Month—to visit their local Head Start program office to discuss school readiness goals and strategize new ways to collaborate with directors.

Help keep this momentum going by making a leadership shift in the way you think about pre-K learning communities. The students entering pre-kindergarten will thank you for the smooth transition.

—L. Earl Franks, Ed.D., CAE, is executive director of NAESP.

Congratulations to the Winners!

Glenys Mason Scholarship

AAESA members who have never attended a national convention are eligible.

Katelyn Holland

Principal

Eura Brown Elementary

Gadsden City

Marie Taylor/Michael Carr Scholarship

Current Alabama educators pursuing a degree or certification in elementary/middle school administration are eligible.

Rachel Horton

Second Grade Teacher

J. Larry Newton Elementary

Baldwin County

Principal: Patricia Wolfe

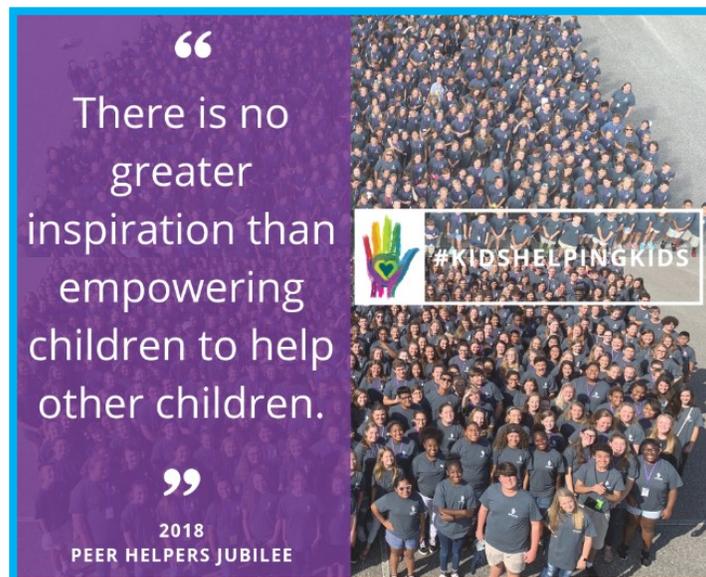
District News

District VIII News

District VIII is blessed by the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation to help students deal with social/emotional issues. Youth Peer Helpers from all across Baldwin County came together on November 7th and 8th at the Eastern Shore Premiere Cinema 14 to hear from inspirational speakers about the various topics our youth face everyday. All 1,300 Peer Helper students from all public and several private schools in Baldwin County were under one roof for this two-day event. The day will consist of networking, sharing, creating a special bond between one another and having fun!

Not only are were the students excited to have this experience and get additional tools to put in their belts, the Program Coordinators were excited to be a part of hearing from other schools and to be able to encourage one another. The Coordinators, Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation board and staff have all witnessed that the greatest ideas for helping and tackling today's societal issues have come from our Peer Helpers. From these ideas we have seen things happen that are life changing.

The focus of the Jennifer Claire Moore Foundation is to provide youth with the knowledge, resources and confidence to successfully navigate the pressures of day-to-day life. This has come to life through our Peer Helping program. Peers Helpers assist their classmates by listening and understanding, providing options for making healthy choices in life, becoming advocates and helping them get involved in campus life. In the process of helping others improve their self-esteem, Peer Helpers can themselves become leaders and role models. The Peer Helper Program's vision is to create a culture of supporting one another by extending a helping hand. Once a student is trained as a Peer Helper, they are always a Peer Helper.



Welcome New AAESA Members

District 1

Heather Collum Sheffield City Schools
 Wanda DavisDecatur City Schools
 Jill Edwards..... Florence City Schools
 Caleb Elrod Cullman County Schools
 Nathan Fuller Colbert County Schools
 Gregory Gray..... Limestone County Schools
 Wesley Harden.....Cullman County Schools
 Marty Hardman.....Cullman County Schools
 Kelley Joiner Lauderdale County Schools
 Jill Jones Brown Morgan County Schools
 Jonathan King..... Franklin County Schools
 Eric Kirkman Lauderdale County Schools
 Ross Lewis Hartselle City Schools
 Jeff Mathheus Athens City Schools
 Kimberly Motton Sheffield City Schools
 Vicki Smith
 Wesley Thigpen..... Franklin County Schools
 Jennifer Warhurst Franklin County Schools
 Tiffany WarhurstRussellville City Schools
 Lewis White..... Morgan County Schools

District 2

Dena Armbrecht.....Mobile County Schools
 Suzanne BahrSatsuma City Schools
 Shundra BarnesMobile County Schools
 Ashley BrewerMobile County Schools
 Danielle Hodge.....Mobile County Schools
 Ronald HornerChickasaw City Schools
 David Maxwell.....Mobile County Schools
 Simone MooreMobile County Schools
 Kike Pettaway.....Mobile County Schools
 George SullivanMobile County Schools
 Amy TillmanMobile County Schools
 Metra Turner.....Mobile County Schools
 Patricia WestbrookMobile County Schools
 Melanie WinterMobile County Schools

District 3

Celester Bolden Sumter County Schools
 Chris Dobbins Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Traci Elmore Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Danielle Fulghum Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Diana Gray
 Marsha Johnson Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Amy Lacy Lamar County Schools
 Alicia Nalls Fayette County Schools
 Jaime Pate Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Jeremy Perkins Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Laurie Presley Tuscaloosa County Schools
 James Rainey..... Walker County Schools
 Patricia Smith Tuscaloosa County Schools
 Terry Sterling..... Pickens County Schools
 Lindsey Thompson Tuscaloosa County Schools
 SheMia Wilson Pickens County Schools

District 4

Jan Bowling Tarrant City Schools
 Brent Byars..... Alabaster City Schools
 Megan Dake Blount County Schools
 Ashley Edmonds..... Tarrant City Schools
 Becky Edwards Hoover City Schools
 Tracy Ford Fairfield City Schools
 WaShunda Gill.....Birmingham City Schools
 Latoya Hall..... Leeds City Schools
 Tanya Hiers..... Jefferson County Schools
 Rachel Holifield Jefferson County Schools
 Christy Kearley Shelby County Schools
 Tasha Kiel Fairfield City Schools
 Michelle Landrum Jefferson County Schools
 Petra Leonard.....Birmingham City Schools
 Staci Lewis..... Jefferson County Schools
 Christi Martin Homewood City Schools
 Marlana Matthews..... Blount County Schools
 Amanda McLaughlin Jefferson County Schools
 Donia Nelson.....Birmingham City Schools
 Leah Pendergrass Leeds City Schools

Welcome New AAESA Members cont'd

Erin Piper..... Jefferson County Schools
Carolyn Russell-Walker Birmingham City Schools
Ashley Samuels Birmingham City Schools
David Seale..... Birmingham City Schools
Lisa Stamps Shelby County Schools
Troy Taylor Jefferson County Schools
Adam Truesdale Leeds City Schools
Cardella Walker..... Shelby County Schools
Veronica Wiggins
Tanya Wildman Alabaster City Schools
Charles Yeager Jefferson County Schools

District 5

Jeffery Boatwright..... Fort Payne City Schools
Barry Bottoms
Erika Clark Jacksonville City Schools
Joseph Cordi..... Sylacauga City Schools
Hilary Dahlke Guntersville City Schools
Leslie Day Dekalb County Schools
John Doyle Guntersville City Schools
Karri Findley Calhoun County Schools
Taylor Freeman Oxford City Schools
Claire Gamble Oxford City Schools
Kristi Hopper Boaz City Schools
Philip Jenkins..... Talladega City Schools
Donna Johnson
Lyndsey Key Talladega County Schools
Julie-Ann McCulley Guntersville City Schools
Melissa Molock Attalla City Schools
Gregory Moore St. Clair County Schools
Ebony Pearson Gadsden City Schools
Leanne Reed Gadsden City Schools
Laura Sims Etowah County Schools
Jamie Smith..... Cleburne County Schools
Julie Tucker Etowah County Schools
Christa Urban St. Clair County Schools
Eric West Etowah County Schools

District 6

Felissa Clemons Autauga County Schools
Ebony Cox Dallas County Schools
Jennifer Douthit..... Lowndes County Schools
Donna Finch..... Autauga County Schools
Angel Garrett
Margaret Jones..... Selma City Schools
Tammy Major
Sharon McDaniel Chilton County Schools
Vivian Palmer..... Autauga County Schools
Crystal Sabat Chilton County Schools
Mark Stephenson Chilton County Schools
Dyphelia Thrash..... Selma City Schools
Rebecca Threlkeld Chilton County Schools

District 7

Shay Baugh Auburn City Schools
Logan Cofield Randolph County Schools
Tim Collier..... Elmore County Schools
Amy Crew Lee County Schools
Regina Deavens Tallapoosa County Schools
Brittney Duncan..... Alexander City Schools
Laura Dunlap..... Lee County Schools
DeNitta Easterling..... Montgomery County Schools
Jamie Forbus..... Alexander City Schools
Jimmy Fryer Randolph County Schools
Gigi Hankins Elmore County Schools
Derrick Harris..... Bullock County Schools
Mary Holloway Alexander City Schools
Jeffery Johnson Auburn City Schools
Rance Kirby Tallapoosa County Schools
Mary Anna Martin-Smith
Sherita Mason..... Montgomery County Schools
Jon Owens Alexander City Schools
Raymond Porter Tallapoosa County Schools
Cindy Poteet Opelika City Schools
Caroline Raville Auburn City Schools
Jason Rawson Phenix City Schools
James Rice Auburn City Schools

Welcome New AAESA Members cont'd

Lisa Rushing Phenix City Schools
Larry Saulsberry Russell County Schools
Tiffany Scissum Montgomery County Schools
David Stover Coosa County Schools
Edwina Thomas Montgomery County Schools
TriShonne Tullos Macon County Schools
Tiffany Yelder Pike Road City Schools

District 8

Hosea Addison Autauga County Schools
Angie Beard Baldwin County Schools
George Brown Escambia County Schools
Susan Carter Autauga County Schools
Claude Eilert Baldwin County Schools
Peggy Grant Conecuh County Schools
Kemmavia Griffin Mobile County Schools
Allison Guy Baldwin County Schools
Michele Hewlett Chickasaw City Schools
Pat Hodge
Traci Hosea Thomasville City Schools
Mary Catherine Law Baldwin County Schools
Courtney McBride Escambia County Schools
Gina McClure Baldwin County Schools
Shannon McCurdy Baldwin County Schools
Sonya Price Baldwin County Schools
Taraethia Sullivan Clarke County Schools
Pamela Sute Baldwin County Schools
Marla Warner Baldwin County Schools
Hazel White-Howze Washington County Schools
Sandra Williams Thomasville City Schools

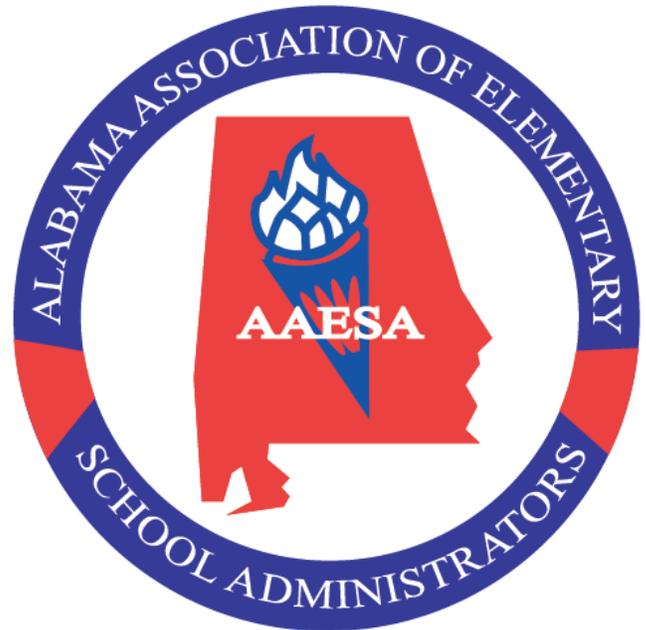
District 9

Rena Averett Geneva County Schools
Blakelynn Barker Dothan City Schools
Joseph Boswell Pike County Schools
Shavonne Burrows Enterprise City Schools
Cody Carnley Crenshaw County Schools
Gary Coleman Crenshaw County Schools

Henry Dawkins Geneva County Schools
Tameka Hicks Eufaula City Schools
Christie Hughes Geneva County Schools
Undrea Johnson Barbour County Schools
Ashley Kilcrease Andalusia City Schools
Charlesetta Robinson Barbour County Schools
Jodie Shelley Houston County Schools
Jami Whillock Houston County Schools

District 10

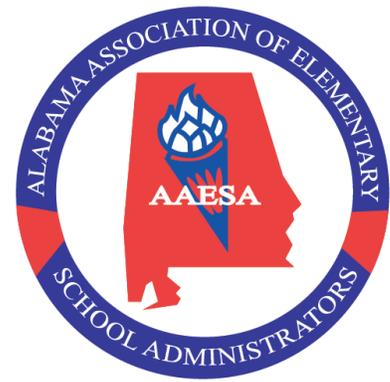
Linda Arredondo Madison County Schools
Leslie Cross Madison County Schools
Rachelle Heard Huntsville City Schools
Zachary Holt Scottsboro City Schools
Sheila Jones Madison County Schools
Fayette Little Tuscaloosa City Schools
Cressie McCaghren
Laurie Ninke
Thomas Runnion Madison City Schools
Whitney Smith Jackson County Schools
Miguel Stricklen Huntsville City Schools
Tracey Wray Madison County Schools





AAESA District Map

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