Congratulations
Kendrick Meyers
Alabama’s 2016
Assistant Principal
of the Year

Kendrick Meyers, assistant principal of Opelika High School, has been named by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) as the Assistant Principal of the Year.

As the Alabama state winner, Mr. Meyers represented Alabama at the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Conference February 26-28 in Orlando and competed with all other state winners for national recognition. Mr. Meyers, Opelika High School, and Opelika City Schools is to be commended for exhibiting excellence in leadership.

Myers has positively affected the students and faculty during his tenure at Opelika High School. He has united community efforts and school resources to provide incentives for perfect attendance. He is also credited with the implementation of an incentive program that rewards students who have no disciplinary action.

Myers considers his biggest achievement to be his work with the BICS program offered through an AT&T grant. The program helps at-risk students by providing confidence building activities, new experiences, college visits, leadership conferences, business tours, and other relevant visits. Because of this program, many of those at-risk students are now enrolled in or seeking post-secondary educational opportunities.

“Mr. Myers has been an integral part of our school’s success in academic opportunities, attendance, and with at-risk students. He has a perfect tapestry of professional and personal qualities,” states Opelika High School Principal Dr. Farrell Seymore. “His ability to develop relationships with students, families, staff, and teachers has helped Opelika High School move this community forward.”
Let’s Give Them Something to Tweet About

Ready or not, the 21st Century is here! Homewood Middle School has always been a front-runner in many areas of education innovation in the state of Alabama. However, we realized that we were not maximizing a powerful social media tool that could be used by faculty and staff to help “sharpen the saw”. During the Fall semester of 2015, HMS decided to take the leap and create our own official school Twitter account (@homewoodmiddle). The account itself is curated by three individuals at the school, an assistant principal, a technology specialist, and a library-media specialist. The idea behind the account was to keep our faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders abreast of all of the wonderful things going on at our school. We knew the capabilities Twitter had for education, but our grandest expectations were surpassed as we embarked on a new journey.

Prior to rolling the idea of an official school Twitter account out to HMS teachers, the HMS Twitter Team participated in a Google Hangout with Jennifer Hogan, an assistant principal at Hoover High School. She is very active on Twitter and has published a document on how to tell your school’s story on Twitter, which we found very helpful in planning professional development with teachers. After talking to her, the first thing we did was create our own hashtag (#hwdms) by asking teachers to submit their ideas. HMS principal, Mr. Jimmie Pearson, selected the winning hashtag, and the teacher who submitted it was rewarded with a gift certificate to Dreamcakes.

Our next step was to meet with teachers and help them create their own Twitter accounts. Once they did this, we introduced them to the Twitter Challenge. The challenge was similar to a professional development meeting that assisted teachers with completing specific tasks using Twitter as a platform. Teachers who successfully completed the Twitter Challenge were entered into a drawing for a Starbucks gift card.

After the Twitter Challenge, we let a month pass and watched the Twitter activity from our faculty. It definitely increased, but we still had hopes that more teachers would participate. We decided December was a good month to have some fun and play Twitter Bingo (see handout). The contest started in early December and ended prior to the holiday break. This activity challenged the faculty to try different things in Twitter. Many HMS teachers completed the activity. The engagement and excitement brought on by Twitter has done much to build community in our school. Our next Twitter challenge will be to conduct our own Twitter chat with our faculty. This will be something similar to an edchat.

Overall, the Twitter experience has been great for HMS. It has provided a means of professional development, professional networking, and connectedness for our faculty and staff. We look forward to continuing on our quest to write our school’s story using Twitter.
CHIME IN!
Let us hear your voice at the 2016
ASCA
Alabama Student Council Association
CONFERENCE
for High School and Middle School Students
April 17-18, 2016
Bryant Conference Center

Featured Speakers:

Kevin Laue
1st Div 1 NCAA player with one arm

Happiness is Now
A youth movement to help those find their path to happiness

Elliot Spillers
University of Alabama SGA President

Register at: asca.hereweb.com

More Information contact Katrina@clasleaders.org or (800) 239-3616.
Achievement gaps, growth models, LSIs, CCR indicators, and other parts of the new accountability program all seem to have a common thread, ACT/ASPIRE. Though some may not agree, it makes sense, because the ACT exam is used as the most common college entrance exam. High school (and middle school) administrators are charged with formulating a plan, monitoring implementation, and evaluating the program through data analysis (ACT benchmarks, composite averages, etc.). The whole process can determine the “Report Card Grade”.

PLANNING

The programs that you implement have a lot to do with the daily schedule of classes at your school. Theodore High School and other Mobile County High Schools have a block schedule with a 45-minute mini block each day. Our plan involves grouping students according to areas of need based on the Explore (now ASPIRE 8) results. You can also use PLAN (now ASPIRE 10) test results for 11th grade remediation. For example, a Freshman 101 class may have students in mini block that need help with math. We have math and science instructors that teach this particular class.

We have contracted with an ACT prep company in order to provide mini block teachers with guidance and a variety of study materials that are implemented into the curriculum (ACT prep vendors will be at the AASSP Fall Conference in Perdido). We are currently in the process of sharing resources from ALSDE such as periodic assessments that are formative assessments that help teachers determine the direction of their instruction. There are a number of other resources like ACT Online Prep. A major part of our plan is teacher collaboration. We are promoting the sharing of resources between teachers as well as online discussions of best practices through staff emails.

IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement this plan, a substantial amount of staff development should be put in place. We started during the first staff development day at the beginning of the school year. Our training and the implementation of our mini block ACT/ASPIRE prep courses will be covered in monthly Problem Solving Team (PST) / Professional Learning Team (PLT) meetings along with monthly departmental and faculty meetings. Teachers will assign a password to each student for online resources through ACT Mastery Prep. Implementation will be monitored through mini block walkthroughs.

EVALUATION

A large part of the program evaluation will be based on data review. Classes will rotate through the computer labs to complete online periodic assessments which include both interim (approximately 45 minutes) and classroom (approximately 15 minutes) practice tests. Results from these assessments, classroom walkthroughs, and teacher-generated pre and post tests will be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the program and make proper modifications.

While the three essential steps to address the age of ACT (Plan, Implement, and Evaluate) are universal, each school should base their program on the needs of their students. Regardless of the amount of time and effort used in the implementation of your program, realize that adjustments in the program are inevitable as the needs of students change. Accountability and the Age of ACT are not the first challenges that administrators face nor will they be the last. By using peer collaboration and innovative practices, we can promote academic growth through the ACT.
Principal of the Year Applications

Alabama High School or Middle School Principal of the Year

Deadline April 1, 2016

The Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals’ (AASSP) recognizes one high school principal and one middle school principal each year. One overall winner will be chosen to travel to Washington, D.C. and represent Alabama at the NASSP 2016-2017 Principal of the Year program.

Below is a link to a simple application form for you to complete.

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

To be eligible for High School Principal of the Year, you must have been a principal for at least three (3) years and be a member of AASSP. To be eligible for Middle School Principal of the Year, you must have been a principal for at least three (3) years and be a member of AASSP or AAMSP. In order to be considered a candidate for National Principal of the Year, you must be a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April Lunch & Learn
April 6, 2016
11:00am - 11:45am
“How to Flip Your Faculty & Staff Meeting”

May Lunch & Learn
May 11, 2016
11:00am - 11:45am
“Reducing Stress in the Workplace”

CLAS Summer Convention
June 12-15, 2016
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa and Montgomery Performing Arts Centre
Montgomery, AL

Do you have an Innovative Idea to share?
If you have an innovative idea or best practice,
please submit an article for the e-Newsletter to katrina@clasleaders.org
W. H. KIMBROUGH SCHOLARSHIP
FOR ASPIRING ADMINISTRATORS

The Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) recognizes the need to prepare qualified persons to fill the future needs for secondary school administration. To assist in fulfilling this need, AASSP will offer two scholarships annually in the amount of $500 each. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist qualified individuals who wish to pursue a degree or certification in the area of secondary school administration. To qualify, an individual must be working on initial certification in the specified field.

Name ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Name of School _____________________________ School System __________________________________

Are you presently in an Administration Program?           Y              N

If yes, what is the name of College or University? _________________________________________________

Are you presently tenured?              Y               N

If no, name of system where you previously achieved tenure _________________________________________

Please list your work history in the field of education below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Dates of Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following documents must accompany this application:

I. Recommendation from current or most recent principal
II. A written explanation (150 words or less) of your reasons for entering the field of secondary school administration
III. Recommendation from another educator
IV. Any other information you believe will be helpful

I hereby certify that the information I have furnished is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

____________________________________     __________________________________
Signature       Date

Please return application and documentation to:

AASSP Kimbrough Scholarship
P. O. Box 428 - Montgomery, AL  36101-0428
Telephone: (800) 239-3616  Fax: (334) 265-3611

This application must be postmarked no later than JUNE 5.
Full Name: _________________________________________
First Name for Badge: ________________________________
Position: ____________________________________________
School System: ______________________________________
School: _____________________________________________
Phone: ___________________  Fax:  ____________________
E-mail Address: ______________________________________ (required for confirmation)
Bill To:  _____________________________________________
Billing Address: ______________________________________
City, ST Zip: _________________________________________

1. CONVENTION REGISTRATION
(Includes all meals, breaks, door prizes, sessions, and president’s reception)
circle the appropriate registration fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Registration by May 6</th>
<th>Registration by June 10</th>
<th>On-Site, June 12-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER</td>
<td>$ 240</td>
<td>$ 270</td>
<td>$ 295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-MEMBER</td>
<td>$ 390</td>
<td>$ 420</td>
<td>$ 445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETIRED MEMBER</td>
<td>$ 120</td>
<td>$ 130</td>
<td>$ 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPIRING ADMIN MEMBER</td>
<td>$ 155</td>
<td>$ 170</td>
<td>$ 190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPIRING ADMIN NON-MEMBER</td>
<td>$ 230</td>
<td>$ 245</td>
<td>$ 265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPOUSE/GUEST</td>
<td>$ 110</td>
<td>$ 120</td>
<td>$ 130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spouse/Guest Name:  __________________________________
(Complete only if registered, does not receive professional development credit)

TOTAL Section 1 ............................................ $ _____________

2. MEALS (No charge for paid registrants, but reservations are required!)
Awards Luncheon ................................. Tuesday, June 14
☐ I will attend (No charge if paid convention registration)
☐ My spouse/guest will attend (Included in spouse/guest fee)
☐ I need _____ extra ticket(s) at $40 each

Closing Breakfast Session ........................... Wednesday, June 15
☐ I will attend (No charge if paid convention registration)
☐ My spouse/guest will attend (Included in spouse/guest fee)
☐ I need _____ extra ticket(s) at $30 each

TOTAL Section 2 ............................................. $ _____________

GRAND TOTAL (Sections 1 & 2) ......................... $ _____________

3. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
☐ I have special health/dietary needs:
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. EMERGENCY CONTACT (In case of emergency, we will contact)
Name: __________________________________________________________
Relationship: _____________________________________________________
Daytime Phone: ____________________________________________________
Other Phone: __________________________________________________________________

5. PAYMENT
(Refunds granted only upon written request. No refunds granted after June 3, 2016.)
☐ Check (enclosed) # ___________________________
☐ Purchase Order # ___________________________
☐ Credit Card (Visa/MC/Discover)
☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Discover
Card Number: ___________________________
Expiration Date: _____ / ______ CVV: ____________________________
Last 3 digits on back of card
Cardholder Name: ______________________________________________
Cardholder Address: ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Cardholder Phone: ______________________________________________
Signature: ______________________________________________________

Send registration by 24-hour fax line to (334) 265-3611 if paying with credit card or purchase order, or mail the completed form with your payment to:

CLAS
P.O. Box 428
Montgomery, AL  36101-0428

Questions?  Call (800) 239-3616 or visit us online at www.clasleaders.org/conv

Room Reservations: Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Renaissance Montgomery at (877) 545-0311 and asking for the 2016 CLAS Summer Convention room rate of $132 per night for single/double rooms. Reservations are subject to availability and must be made by May 12, 2016, to receive this rate. Online room reservations - http://j.mp/CLASConvRes16

Online Registration available at www.clasleaders.org/conv
You’re Invited to Join Us for the 45th Annual CLAS Convention

Register Online www.clasleaders.org

The most important professional development experience for Alabama’s current and future school administrators!

Conference Features:
- Networking Opportunities
- Distinguished Speakers
- Numerous Session Options
- Motivational Presentations
- PLU Credits

Notable Sessions:
- “Shift Your Brilliance: Harness the Power of You” with Simon T. Bailey
- “Educators Have the Power - Let’s Use It!” with Ray McNulty
- “Expanding the Possibilities: Unstoppable Learning” with Sugata Mitra

2016 CLAS Convention
June 12-15, 2016
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa and Montgomery Performing Arts Centre
Montgomery, Alabama

Earn Credits Toward a PLU!
Standard I: Planning for Continuous Improvement
Standard II: Teaching and Learning
Standard IV: Diversity
Standard VII: Management of the Learning Organization