Congratulations to Dr. Farrell Seymore who was elected on November 9 at the Fall Conference to serve as the Vice-President Elect of the Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP). As the Principal of Opelika High School, Seymore is currently representing Alabama as the 2015-16 Principal of the Year. Seymore has 18 years of experience in the field of education with 13 of those years in administration. Since 2011, Seymore has led Opelika High School as its principal. Previously, he served as a teacher, assistant principal and later principal of Opelika Middle School. Principal Seymore is credited with changing the climate of Opelika High School to a student-centered learning culture. Inspired by Dufour’s idea of professional learning communities, a series of book studies was launched. As a result of the book studies and changes made during problem-solving sessions, the school’s culture shifted into the desired focus areas. Since then, the school has increased in advanced placement course participation by making courses more rigorous, giving students a selection of course offerings, and helping students achieve the level of learning necessary to be successful. Increasing offerings in career technical education and the implementation of Alabama’s College- and Career-Ready Standards have played an integral role in defining student success and preparing students for college or the workforce. Not only do these programs help meet the needs of Opelika High School students, but they address business and industry needs in the area. The school has developed a credentialing program for Microsoft Office, a health science program, and an information technology.
ASCA 2016
STATE HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE
Legacy of Leadership

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:
April 17-18, 2016
BRYANT CONFERENCE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
TUCAULOOSA, ALABAMA
REGISTRATION - $115/PERSO
(ALL MEALS INCLUDED)
CONFERENCE CHARITY: NICK’S KIDS

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:
Hotel Capstone
$135/NIGHT – 2 QUEEN BEDS OR SINGLE KING
$150/NIGHT – EXECUTIVE SUITE

FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT ASHLEY RUSSELL
(205) 343-1114

Get Your Student Council/SGA Involved with our State Association!

For Information: Contact Katrina Akers by email katrina@clasleaders.org
Pelham City Schools: Project Lead the Way

Pelham City Schools has offered its schools the opportunity to become involved in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) initiative. This program (PLTW Gateway at the middle school level) gives our students an opportunity to use their critical thinking skills as well as to be introduced to engineering, biomedical, and computer science curricula. One of the Gateway courses we offer at Riverchase Middle School (RMS) is Automation and Robotics. Patrick McDonald, the eighth grade science teacher who teaches the course, explained that this particular program offers students an introduction to programming, problem solving, and basic coding.

The course starts by offering students basic information about the various types of engineering careers. After that, students are given problems to solve. Here is an example of a problem students were given:

*The city comes to you and asks you to design a red light that will work as a typical red light; however, when an emergency vehicle comes by, it will have the ability to push a button and change the light so they can pass on by. After the emergency vehicle passes, the red light will continue to function as normal."

Students are given about a week to design, code, and build their project. They can build, ask other teams for support, and troubleshoot as necessary during this timeframe. In the picture to the left, students had to design an assembly line that would allow an object to pass from line to line and then be moved off. Each team built their component independently with the knowledge that all of the components must function together at the end of the project.

Other PLTW Gateway courses offered at RMS are Design and Modeling, Medical Detectives, and Energy and the Environment.
Oxford Middle School hosted its third annual Christmas Wish Party for the Alabama Baptist Children’s Home on December 8, 2015. Sponsored by the OMS Builders’ Club and Student Council, the program is one of the most highly anticipated events on our winter calendar. The mission is simple: provide a group of kids with a traditional Christmas experience, complete with a pile of presents and a home-cooked meal.

Members from each organization volunteer to participate in the program, where they and a committee of their teachers and peers endeavor to create an unforgettable experience for their assigned child. Not only does each child receive a bundle of gifts—all of which are purchased based on a preliminary screening of their interests—but the committees often go a step further, creating personalized posters and cards addressed from Santa and his helpers.

“Our faces. That’s what I look forward to the most,” comments a member of the OMS Student Council. “It’s the most Christmas thing I’ve ever done.” For many of our students, this is their first truly selfless holiday experience. Through events like this, we cultivate within our young people a heart for giving and a desire to meet the needs of others, a trait that is all-too-often absent in our world today.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Assistant Principals Conference**
- January 27-28, 2016
  Hampton Inn - Orange Beach
- February 2-3, 2016
  Marriott Legends - Prattville

**Law Conference**
March 1, 2016
Wynfrey Hotel - Birmingham

**NASSP National Conference**
Orlando, FL

**CLAS Summer Convention**
June 12-15, 2016
Renaissance Hotel & Spa
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
Maneuvering through challenging legal issues that school and district administrators routinely face is a demanding task. Attend the 2016 Law Conference to learn from some of the most respected experts in school law and be equipped to navigate legal encounters with much greater knowledge. Participants will select from a variety of tentative topics such as Religion in Public Schools; IDEA, 504, ADA; Social Media Misuse; Avoiding Financial Blunders; Special Education: Seclusion and Restraint; Search and Seizure Confusion; School Safety, Harassment, and Bullying; FERPA Dilemmas to Avoid, Employee Discipline and Termination.

For Room Reservations: Call the Wynfrey Hotel at 205-705-1234, and ask for the CLAS Law Conference room rate of $135/night. Reservations must be made by February 5, 2016. Check-in is 3:00 p.m.; Check-out is 12:00 p.m. Reservations made after February 5 may not be eligible for the discounted room rate.

Attendance at this conference will serve as a required activity for Standard VII: Management of the Learning Organization (PLUACLD350, PLUACLD357, PLUACLD403).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Name: ____________________________
Position: __________________________
School: ____________________________
System: ____________________________
Work Phone: ______________________ Fax: __________
E-mail: ____________________________
Bill To: ____________________________
Billing Address: ______________________
City: __________________ Zip: __________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circle Choice</th>
<th>Early Registration by Feb. 26</th>
<th>Registration After Feb. 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>$145.00*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Member</td>
<td>$345.00</td>
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* Must be an active member of CLAS; systems that subscribe to leadership institutes are NOT considered active members.

Payment method:
Check # or Purchase Order # ______________________
(Payment or valid PO number is required before registration can be processed.)

Cardholder Name: ______________________ CVV: ______
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Cardholder Phone: ____________________________

QUESTIONS? CALL (800) 239-3616 OR VISIT ONLINE: WWW.CLASLEADERS.ORG
Ignite ‘16 is the only professional development event devoted exclusively to the unique needs of middle level and high school administrators.

In just three days, you will make valuable connections, learn proven leadership techniques, and take home practical solutions to carry you and your school to success.

The Ignite ‘16 Thought Leaders will leave you energized and inspired.

Robert Putnam, PhD, professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, will send Ignite ‘16 attendees home armed with ideas on narrowing the opportunity gaps increasingly faced by young people.

Sekou Andrews engages audiences with his cutting-edge fusion of inspirational speaking and spoken word poetry, motivating you to become the best version of yourself.

There is no better place than Ignite ‘16 to expand your knowledge and advance your career, students, and school.

Register today at nasspconference.org.
You’re Invited to Join Us for the 45th Annual CLAS Convention

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

Notable Sessions:
- “The Vuja De Moment! A Shift from Average to Brilliant” with Simon T. Bailey
- “Educators Have the Power - Let’s Use It!” with Dr. Raymond McNulty
- “Expanding the Possibilities: Unstoppable Learning” with Sugata Mitra

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

Register Online

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

Earn Credits Toward a PLU!

Website: www.clasleaders.org
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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
   | PRE-REGISTRATION BY MAY 6 | REGISTRATION BY JUNE 10 | ON-SITE JUNE 12-15 |
   | MEMBER | $ 240 | $ 270 | $ 295 |
   | NON-MEMBER | $ 390 | $ 420 | $ 445 |
   | RETIRED MEMBER | $ 120 | $ 130 | $ 140 |
   | ASPIRING ADMIN MEMBER | $ 155 | $ 170 | $ 190 |
   | ASPIRING ADMIN NON-MEMBER | $ 230 | $ 245 | $ 265 |
   | SPOUSE/GUEST | $ 110 | $ 120 | $ 130 |

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 ............................................. $ _____________

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:  _______________
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     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

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

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

Online Registration available at www.clasleaders.org/conv