



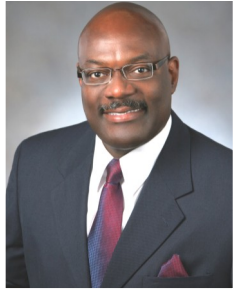
Booker T. Washington High School
"Citadel of Learning"



Wildcat Quarterly

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2012



DR. MICHAEL ROBERTS
PRINCIPAL

Mr. Jeremy Tompkins
Assistant Principal for Facilities

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Assistant Principal for Curriculum

2011-2012
SCHOOL YEAR
Do Your Best!
Be Your Best!

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From the Desk of...

Dr. Michael Roberts

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

It is amazing and also a bit startling to write an end-of-the-semester and an end-of-the -calendar -year article. Where did the opening weeks of the school year go? It is normal that life gets hectic during this time of the year; but we must be mindful of the fact that our students are in the first phase of registration for the 2012-2013 school year and I encourage each of you to discuss your child's course selection and schedule.

Student Success

We want to thank all of these students for their hard work and dedication. Additionally we should always be mindful to sincerely thank our students for their co-curricular achievements as well as for their academic achievements. I

want to mention a few student groups that may often fly under the radar when it comes to recognition. The athletic ability of the volleyball team this past season was outstanding- I enjoyed the opportunity to again see them in action throughout the season and during the District's play off. They are to be congratulated as they finished the 2011 season as the District Champs. A big congratulations to Destiny Williams, a junior, is Escambia County's Four-Way Test Essay Contest winner, which is sponsored by the Pensacola Suburban West Rotary Club. She was both the School Finalist and the Grand Prize Winner.

Diversified Career Technology (DCT)

We had six students to place in competitive events at our District I Competition and are now eligible to go to the State Leadership Conference

in Orlando, Florida on Feb. 24, 2012. We are very proud of each of them. In addition to competitive events, the DCT students successfully completed a food drive for manna food bank which we contributed over 200 lbs. of food.

Introduction of Information Technology (IIT)

We have had 22 students to pass the Microsoft Office Certification Test in Word 2007 and 29 students have pass Microsoft Office Certification Test for Power-Point 2007. This is an ongoing challenge and the students continue to take this certification throughout the duration of the class. These are very difficult tests and we are so very excited for all of them.



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Cont. from p. 1

FYI

As you know, we have just finished the first semester of the 2011-2012 school year, so I would like to provide some helpful information. A couple of the issues we would like to readdress are the number of absences/tardies, bullying/harassment, and overall behavior on campus.

Attendance is one big issue we try to push and encourage to ensure students are in the classroom prepared and ready to learn. Having good attendance is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

As a school, we are continuing to work hard on our anti-bullying policy. With the help of clubs, awareness training, teachers, administration, and support staff we have been working hard to ensure bullying/harassment is curbed, if not eliminated, from the Booker T. Washington High School campus. We will be developing pamphlets that will be placed all around campus to educate students and staff on the steps to take in cases of bullying or harassment. We also will run public service announcements to address the issue and administration will be going into classes to discuss this along with other issues on campus. We will also have a link on our school web page that will link

to the school district Bullying site to file an official bullying complaint. Additionally we will be developing an "in house" bullying complaint form, which will be available in the attendance office, for students that will make the process of reporting these issues to proper school personnel.

It is the expectation that all students follow the rules and procedures here on campus at all times. We make due process announcements to inform students of the rules and procedures, but it is recommended that all families review and discuss the Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. This will ensure students and parents understand and know the rules and procedures of BTWHS as well as the school district policy and procedures. Knowing the rules and obeying them are another part of student success and will help lead to harmony on our campus.

SENIORS—Mrs. Susan Kelley

Graduation 2012 will be held on Tuesday June 5, 2012 at the Pensacola Civic Center at 1PM.

Dress code for gentlemen: dark dress pants, shirt, tie, socks, and dress shoes. Jackets are discouraged. Graduation gown will be worn over dress clothes. No tennis shoes or flip-flops will be permitted!

Dress code for ladies: blouses and skirts or dresses no longer than the graduation gown. Dress shoes should be worn - no tennis shoes or flip-flops. Make sure you wear heels in which you can comfortably walk. Ladies **should not** bring purses.

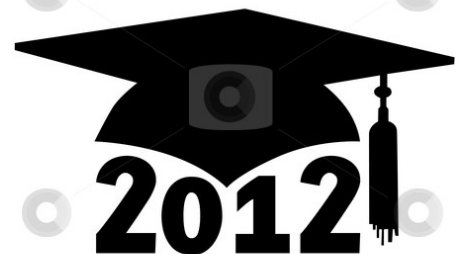
All seniors met with Herf Jones representatives to be properly sized

for a cap and gown. All Class of 2012 Seniors should be sized for a cap and gown – at no cost – even if they do not plan on participating in graduation. If you missed this important event, please contact Herff Jones immediately to schedule your fitting.

Olive Baptist Church will host our 2012 Baccalaureate Service – dates and time to be announced.

*Be the change
that you
want to see
in the
world*

CLASS OF



BTWHS

Pride: Finishing Strong

Jeremy Tompkins, Assistant Principal

It is hard to believe that the end of the first semester is just around the corner. This year is flying by quickly and the end of the school year will be here before you know it. That is why it is important for everyone to take time to reflect on the past semester, and refocus during the holidays, so that we can finish the remaining part of the school year strong.

After reflecting and refocusing, I believe there are four areas under facilities, discipline, athletics, and business affairs that we can finish strong in. They are: decreasing the number of office discipline referrals for the school, promoting school spirit throughout the student body, increasing the number of school business partners, and continuing to have a safe school for everyone to learn and work in. When these four areas are completed, the race to the end of school year will have finished strong.

First, decreasing the number of office discipline referrals for the school. Parents I need you to help us in two areas if we are going to see a decrease in discipline referrals. Number one please be aware of the school dress code. This time of year as things warm up outside students tend to forget the dress code and the number of referrals increase. Number two please encourage your students to get to school and class on time. The numbers of tardies are beginning to increase and we need your help to keep them under control.

The next component to finishing the year strong is promoting school spirit. We are working with our Student Government Association to increase school spirit. They have made several event proposals to the administration and we are looking forward to implementing some of their ideas over the next few weeks. Next, we strongly encourage our students to get involved in extracurricular activities. Studies show that students who participate have a higher success rate in high school. In addition, Basketball, Soccer and Girl's Weightlifting are in full swing. All of these are great spirit motivators to our student body, please encourage your students to get involved, attend athletic events, and support the "Mighty Wildcats."

Third, if this school is to finish strong it must, have strong community business partners. This past week Men's Warehouse became our partner in education. They will be offering some great incentives to our student body and the school over the next few weeks. Be looking for information on this, in future newsletters and call outs. If you know of any businesses that would like to become partners in education with us, please have them contact me at 475-5257 ext. 223.

Finally, we are working hard to make sure Booker T. Washington High School is a safe and clean place to learn. GCA our custodial contractor has been working very hard to keep the school clean and student friendly. They have been very willing to go above and beyond to make sure all the schools needs have been met.

I know that if we meet all four of these components, that Booker T. Washington High School will finish the year strong. Thank you for all your help in making the first half of the school year great and as always remember it is great to be a Wildcat!

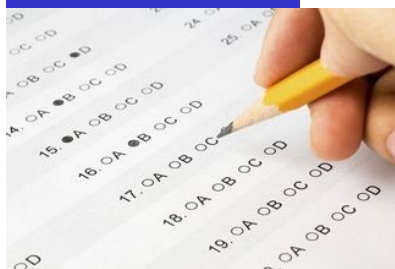
From the Wildcat Artist.....

Tanya Broom

Thank You to everyone who came out to our First Annual Charity Chili Bowl!!! It was a huge success. A great big Wildcat Thank You goes out to all who donated food, materials and energy!!! With your support we were able to make it a great gathering of Wildcat Spirit!!!



GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS



October test scores
received on December.

*“Plans have begun
for the 2012-2013
registration.”*

Make a
conference
with
teachers to
discuss
grade
improve-
ments.



January 2012

Submitted by:
Shirley S. Bordelon

Testing, etc.

Sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT test on October 12, 2011 received scores in December. Counselors will meet with them in groups to distribute score reports and to discuss the results. This is the National Merit Scholarship competition for juniors. All tenth graders took the PLAN on November 1st. Mrs. Bordelon distributed these score reports in December through English classes and explained how to interpret scores and how to best utilize the interest inventory results.

Students who do not have English until second semester will receive their score reports the end of January when they begin their 5th period block English class. The AS-VAB was given by military personnel on November 15, 2011 to juniors and seniors who registered. This test will help these students who are interested in some aspect of

the military after graduation to decide on possible career directions when they enter military training.

Plans have begun for the 2012-2013 registration. An orientation for 8th graders and their parents was held on November 15, 2011. Rising 9th graders who are making decisions between Washington, Catholic, IB, or West Florida Tech had opportunities to explore the varied programs that are offered at Washington. We hope these students join the Wildcat Family. We look forward to our new ninth graders and their parents, and we ask our current parents to spread the good news about Washington High School.

All counselors have made their first semester visits to the English classes. Students were given much information including a copy of their current transcript. (Students who have English in the 5th block second semester will receive this later). Please ask your student to share with you handouts and transcripts. Ninth graders will re-

ceive transcripts at the beginning of second semester after first semester grades are posted. Currently enrolled students will receive their registration cards on February 8, 2012. Prior to that date, counselors will go into the classrooms to provide guidelines for selecting next year's courses. Ask your students about this once second semester has begun.

Grades: Please check the first nine weeks report card that students received on October 31, 2011 and the semester report card that will be sent home on January 24, 2012. If the grades were not good, you can make a conference with teachers to discuss what your child needs to do to improve. (Call Mrs. Gregory, guidance secretary at ext. 224 to schedule teacher conferences). Counselors have met one-on-one with students who failed classes at the first 9 weeks grading period. We recommended study strategies and encourage students to take ownership for their grades.

We ask parents to monitor study habits and to hold students accountable for good grades. We suggest that you make sure that your child is studying and reading on a regular basis even when homework is not to be turned in to teachers. Parents and students should utilize the new **FOCUS** grade program on a regular basis. Parents, you have instant access to daily and weekly grades and you can see exactly what your child is or is not completing. If you see a zero out of 100%, that means that your child did not do that assignment and this will bring down the report card grade very quickly. (Example: Many English teachers require a reading log where students record what they read for how long with an authorized signature to verify. There are an incredible number of students who refuse to do this. In many instances one or two zeros will bring a 9 weeks grade down two letters – an A to a C or a C to an F). This is basically a “free” grade that only requires time and effort. Please, parents, get in-

involved with your child, and supervise the completion of such assignments!! Teachers also have e-mails, and many have websites where assignments are posted in advance.

Dual Enrollment: Dual enrollment for spring semester at PSC was held at Washington High School on November 16, 2011. Dual students are reminded that they must maintain the 3.0 non-weighted GPA and the required number of courses to remain eligible for the dual enrollment program. The PERT test will be given to identified juniors on Feb. 20th. Sophomore who may qualify for dual classes next year will have opportunity to take the PERT the end of February or early March. The testing date will be announced when set.

SENIOR ITEMS:

Senior Activities: Mr. Tompkins is the contact person for all senior activities such as graduation, pictures, caps and gowns, invitations, etc. Please direct those questions to him @ x223.

Bright Futures: Application for the Bright

Futures scholarship program must be made at the Florida financial aid website, www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. The application link opened on December 1, 2011. This is the only way that any senior can apply for the BF scholarship program. The first evaluation, called the seventh semester evaluation, is done at the end of February 2012. To receive an accurate evaluation, all criteria including test scores, GPA, community service, and required course work through first semester must be complete by this date. The only Bright Futures awards that will be announced at Senior Honors night will be those verified by the State Department after the seventh semester evaluation. Community service hours must have been submitted to Mrs. Reeves before Christmas break to be documented for the first evaluation. A second evaluation, the eighth semester evaluation, will be made in late June for all students who were missing criteria or application at the seventh evaluation. Seniors may not receive notification of these results until July or August. Seniors

Recycling 4 Cash



We can earn
\$\$ collecting
empty
inkjets, laser toners
and cell phones!

Bring in cartridges from
home, family, and friends
or ask for a box to take to your place of work.
When it is full, return the box or ship
with the prepaid shipping lable that
Advantage Cartridge provides.

Media Center

Students have three months left to read at least three out of the fifteen nominated Florida Teens Read books to qualify to vote for their favorite in April. We celebrate with pizza and prizes, so keep reading!

Escambia County's first-ever high school Battle of the Books will take place in May. The competition is based on the Florida Teens Read books.

**FBLA District I
Leadership Conference
February 15!**

Basketball—Dewayne Louis

Boys Basketball returned to district to play against Tate. The boys basketball program traveled to Alabama and competed in the Baldwin county Invitational Tournament and traveled to Tallahassee Florida to compete in the prestigious capital City Classic Tournament held at Tallahassee Community College. The boys got a chance to experience some pretty competitive basketball outside of the area.



Cont. from p. 5

are reminded to check the new criteria effective for the 2012 graduation class that was mandated by Florida legislatures in summer 2011. Mrs. Reeves has provided this information to seniors and it can be accessed on the BF website. Examples of changes:

All levels of awards now require some hours of community service. In addition, Bright Futures now requires that parents complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). No financial need has to be indicated; however, the form must be completed and processed error free prior to any Bright Futures monies being released.

Other Scholarships: Seniors should check the school web site frequently for scholarship information and college visit schedules. Some excellent scholarship sites are www.inlikeme.com, www.scholarship.com, www.fastweb.com, and www.facts.org. Also, Mrs. Reeves has visited senior classes twice and provided seniors a list of ten additional scholarship sites. Remember that no charge will ever be made for scholarship information by a legitimate organization. Groups that charge fees for scholarship and college searches are in business for profit and cannot provide any information that students and parents cannot find free on the web and from colleges.

Financial Aid: All parents of seniors, regardless of financial status, should complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid). This information is used for scholarships, grants, loans, and work study programs. Families may not qualify for aid at one college but may qualify at another. The forms will be available online at www.fafsa.gov, but they cannot be completed until 2011 income tax information is available (January 2012).

Again, remember that Bright Futures has added this as a new requirement for monies to be awarded to any student. Mrs. Reeves brought in a speaker from Department of Education in October to share important financial aid information with parents. It was well attended and was a great opportunity for parents to get “first hand” answers to questions.

Financial Aid Date: A workshop to help parents and students to complete the FAFSA will be held at B.T. Washington High School in Room 216 from 5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M, January 23, 2012.

Scholarships



College Admissions: Seniors should complete the college application process as soon as possible. Most colleges require on-line applications, and many application deadlines were as early as November. Seniors must check with their colleges of choice to note particular deadlines and to know if an additional application is required for scholarship consideration in addition to admission application. Transcript requests should be made to Ms. Andi Smith, records clerk. All transcripts to Florida public schools will be sent electronically. There is no charge for transcripts. Seniors should also check out www.collegeweeklive.com. This site hosts events where students can interact live with representatives from different colleges. Look at the schedule of events and participate in colleges where you might have an interest. This is the next best thing to an actual campus visit!

December was a busy month for seniors. Both UWF and PSC were on our campus with admissions officers who did Instant Decision Day for those seniors who had application fees and a current transcript. This is a great service for our seniors and is extremely beneficial for students to have one-on-one access to the person who can answer any questions regarding admissions to both of these quality institutions. We are fortunate to have such a positive working partnership with both UWF and PSC.

A Message to Our Commencement Audience 2012

From Dr. Roberts, Principal

The graduation/commencement ceremony is considered a *rite of passage* wherein a generation of young people is publicly certified to be eligible to move on to take their rightful place in society as adults. At Booker T. Washington High School, we take great pride in this certification ceremony.

We are so serious about the graduation/commencement ceremony that our faculty and staff precede the graduates as they march into the arena. They then are seated alongside the senior class, giving visible endorsement to their certification.

Certainly, graduation/commencement is an excitement-filled occasion for graduates and their families, and well, it should be. Graduation/commencement is the most important culminating event in the public school career of the student. It is a significant milestone that has been achieved by the student as each approaches the stage to receive his or her diploma.

Graduation/commencement should be a stately, dignified, regal event that is steeped in splendor, pomp, and circumstance. It should be an occasion that has the air/atmosphere of a coronation wherein one is about to be crowned or one is ascending to take their rightful place on a throne!

Air horns, confetti, placards and signs have not a place at a graduation/commencement ceremony! Likewise, excessively loud, boisterous, yelling and cheering has no place at the graduation/commencement ceremony either!

We ask that as you attend this ceremony that you imagine that it is being held in your Church, Mosque, Cathedral, Synagogue, or Temple, and Coliseum – NOT at a sports event or rock concert!

We are confident that if you conduct yourself accordingly then, and only then, will we all be able to enjoy this momentous occasion to the fullest!

Thank you,

Dr. Roberts on behalf of the Booker T. Washington High School Administration, Faculty, Staff and Student Body.





Booker T. Washington High School ID Policy

Purpose:

The purpose for a “student ID badge” policy is to ensure each student is readily identified as a Booker T. Washington High School student and to identify and exclude those individuals who have no legitimate business on BTWHS grounds during school hours and/or school activities. The wearing of the student ID badge is **MANDATORY** during school hours.

Displaying:

The ID badge shall be worn around the neck and should not be obstructed by any garment, bag, etc. The badge shall be worn on a lanyard. **Failure to display an ID badge at any time will result in a disciplinary action.**

Disciplinary Actions:

- 1st violation – Verbal warning - issue temporary ID
- 2nd violation – Call Parent – issue temporary ID
- 3rd violation – Parent conference with Principal or designee
- 4th violation – Saturday work detail
- 5th violation – 1 to 3 days ISS
- 6th violation – 3 to 5 days ISS
- 7th violation – 5 to 10 days ISS
- 8th violation – 3 days OSS

The first three violations are documented and completed through the students’ homeroom. On the fourth violation a referral is written and sent to the dean’s office by the end of the school day.

Any student that does not violate the School ID policy will receive cat scratch dollars from their homeroom teacher at the end of every 9 weeks. The cat scratch may be used to purchase items at the end of every 9 weeks during the cat scratch fever event.

At the end of every nine weeks the slate will be cleared and all violators will begin at the 1st violation under disciplinary actions.

*The wearing of the student ID badge is **MANDATORY** during school hours.*

Wear Your ID Badge!!!



Cont. on p. 10



Washington High School

Relay for Life

Washington High School is both proud and honored to be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event again this year. We are very excited to be once again the host site of the Northeast Pensacola event. The Relay For Life will be held in our stadium on May 11th and 12th 2012. Everyone involved throughout the county last year was very pleased with the event here at Washington. Our team was very proud to have given the American Cancer Society a check for \$2000.00, monies raised by our Washington Wildcats.

We have already started fundraising during this school year leading up to the event in May. We began in October selling tickets to the Belk Charity Sale. In December the Relay team hosted a Faculty Art Sale. We were able to showcase some of our teacher's and administrator's wonderful art talents and raise money as well. Our "Hat Day" during the last week of school before Christmas break gave our students a chance to participate in earning funds for the cause. So far this school year we have raised over \$550.00 dollars toward our goal. We look forward to a Spaghetti Sauce Cook-Off and our Relay For Life T-Shirt Sale later in the school year.

We will be providing cancer education information on our morning closed circuit television broadcasts. There are many things we can do to help prevent cancer with information and motivation.

We are looking for interested Wildcats to become members of our Washington Wildcat Relay For Life Team. Our next team meeting will be the last week in January with the date to be announced. As a team member you could help choose our team theme in keeping with the national theme "Ordinary Heroes" for the 2012 event. You could help with fundraising throughout the year and participate in organizing our event. Everyone's life has been touched by cancer; please join us in supporting "Ordinary Heroes".

Your team captain for Relay For Life here at Washington is Mrs. Victoria Kilgen. Please see her for information.

ID Policy Cont from p. 9

Lost/Stolen ID Badges:

It is solely the responsibility of the student to account for the whereabouts of his/her ID badge. Any lost or stolen badge should be immediately reported to the student's homeroom teacher. The homeroom teacher will complete a lost or defaced badge form and turn it into the box which is located in the attendance office. A new ID badge will be issued at a cost of \$3.00 through the tech coordinators office.

Defacing ID Badge:

The ID badge continues to be the property of Booker T Washington High School and shall not be defaced. No pictures, writings, stickers, markings, drawings, etc. are to be placed anywhere on the badge. Depending on the amount of damages to the badge, a new badge may be issued at a cost of \$3.00. In addition, disciplinary actions may be applied.

Non-Transferable:

The ID badge is non-transferable and cannot be shared. Disciplinary actions shall apply, if a student uses the ID badge of another student.

Temporary ID:

The homeroom teacher shall issue a "temporary" ID. This "temporary" ID will be worn in place of a standard badge for identification purposes only and shall be returned to the homeroom teacher the following day or a replacement cost of \$3.00 will be assessed.

Restrictions:

Students will not be allowed to borrow books or use the computers in the Media Center without ID badge.

REVISED: 7/19/2011 (JT)

BYOD—Bring Your Own Devices

Why Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at Booker T. Washington High School?

We are proud to announce that on Monday, December 5, 2011 we rolled out BYOD. The BTWHS students can now use their own personal electronic devices in school as an educational tool. If a classroom teacher has given permission for a student or class to utilize their own electronic device(s) in an assignment the student can do so. However there is a process the student MUST follow and adhere to.

Instructions for accessing the District BYOD Form

Go to the following web address: <http://www.escambia.k12.fl.us/PublicStudentEquipmentPermissionForm/Default.aspx>

Select Washington High School and Type in your student number.

Next, fill in all the information on the form and print the form.

Please sign the form and get the form notarized. (we have 4 notaries)

Turn the form in to Mrs. Mitchell in the Dean's Office.

The following steps will be taken after approval.

The forms will be collected by the school technology coordinator.

The student will be called to the Media Center to have the device labeled.

The label must remain on the device at all times.

Once the device is labeled, the device may be used for educational purposes.

Theft Disclaimer: Booker T. Washington High School is not responsible for the theft of any personal equipment. The responsibility for electronics is solely the student's.

Booker T. Washington High School believes that 21st Century instruction is necessary for 21st Century learning. Providing students with an environment that fosters and encourages this belief is part of our core values. All members of our learning community hold the responsibility to value technology and achieve technological proficiency to prepare our students for future jobs, which currently may not exist.

Schools must challenge students with rigorous, personalized academic experiences, foster innovation and creativity, and embrace emerging technologies. In a 21st Century learning environment, students actively engage in a cohesively integrated curriculum, access information and apply it in solving authentic problems.

Our students are living in a world where they have immediate access to information anytime and anywhere. Many students have personally owned devices in their pockets that can be used to allow them to learn in their own style and at their own pace. With digital learning, every student can access high quality and rigorous instruction in every subject, thereby, maximizing their opportunity for success in school and beyond. A decade ago this was just a dream. Today, it can be a reality.

BYOD

