

### DISTRICT 4 NEWS

August 2025



### **BE READY DAY ONE!**

### We can all help students start strong, stay strong this school year



Did you know that a child who misses just two school days a month is considered chronically absent? Or that chronic absences count against Birmingham City Schools on state report cards AND in state funding?

Far more important, though, is that chronic absences hurt students.

Learning happens in steps. When students miss a step, they can fall behind and find it increasingly hard to catch up.

BCS has worked hard since 2023 to reduce chronic absenteeism from 25% to 14%.

Please help keep this trend going and make sure every student is in school on Aug. 7, and ready to learn on day one. Here are a few tips:

- Register if you haven't already.
- Start adjusting bedtimes and wake-up times.
- Get supplies and backpacks together.
- Talk to your children about school and any concerns they have.



School Board Aug. 12 & Aug. 26

The board meets at 5:30 p.m. at the central office building.



Institute
Aug. 6

All employees will be at Bill Harris Arena from 9-11 a.m. to kick off the new school year.



Back to School Aug. 7

Be ready day one for the start of a new school year! Register your children now to help us be ready, too.

# **SCENES FROM DISTRICT 4**

There's no such thing as summer break for BCS leaders! Recent highlights include:

- Joining the inaugural Wisdom of Woodlawn (W.O.W.) Forum honoring our most recent graduating class.
- Being with the Wilkerson Middle School girls cheer squad at the RESTORE Games.
- Honoring Inglenook STEM Teacher Rhett Franklin and Inglenook Bookkeeper Precious Marcus for their exemplary work.
- Attending the grand opening of the Martha Gaskins Early Learning Annex.

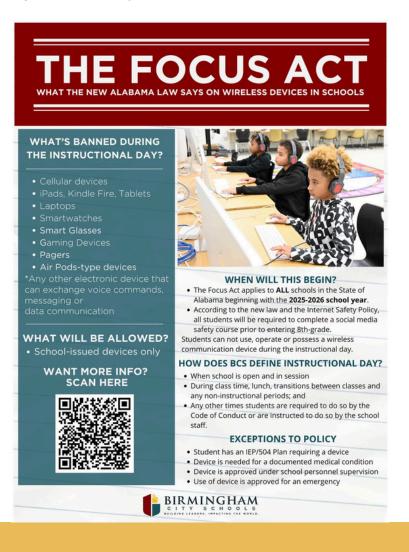


## **DISTRICT 4 NEWS**

### State-mandated changes to phone policy go into effect

BCS students will face new restrictions regarding use of cell phones and other wireless devices during the school day starting this fall.

The rules are required by state law. The goal is to reduce distractions and improve learning, but we recognize this will be an adjustment for students AND parents. The flyers below provide more detail.





Derrick Billups School Board District 4 dbillups@bhm.k12.al.us "Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom."

- Oprah Winfrey

