OCTOBER 2026

BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS
BUILDING LEADERS. IMPACTING THE WORLD.

CAREER COACHES'CORNER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BCS CAREER COACHES



DR. CHRISTINE HALL
HUFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL
VIRTUAL ACADEMY OF LEARNING



MS. JEANINE LITTLE
RAMSAY HIGH SCHOOL
WENONAH HIGH SCHOOL



DR. ENGRID ROY
G.W. CARVER HIGH
JACKSON-OLIN HIGH



DR. WAYNETTA TURNER
A.H. PARKER HIGH SCHOOL
WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL

MEET THE BCS CAREER COACHES

Career Coaches support students in exploring career pathways, identifying their interest and strengths, and helping them explore their post-secondary options. They work with students individually, in small groups and in large groups to help encourage students to make informed decisions about life after leaving high school.

Career Coaches collaborate with school administrators, counselors, teachers, and community organizations to provide career exploration experiences, mentorship and workforce development opportunities. Career assessments. college scholarship resources, and financial aid assistance is also utilized to assist students. The goal is to empower students to successfully transition from high school to their desired post-secondary pathway.



ACADEMY OF CRAFT TRAINING

The Academy of CRAFT Training is a program for local high school students to gain hands on experience in a variety of high demand trades. Students learn from industry professionals and can position themselves for job placement opportunities upon high school graduation.

Trades Offered: Commercial Construction, Commercial Electrical, HVACR and Mechanical Systems, and Industrial Metal and Fabrication

Applications are now open for next school year for rising juniors and seniors. The deadline to apply is **January 20, 2027. Scan the QR code below for link to the application.**

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

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SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS TIPS

Scholarships are financial awards that may be based on academic achievement, financial need, talents, or other eligibility criteria. Finding and applying for scholarships can help make your college education more affordable. Use these tips to strengthen your scholarship search and application process.

- **Prioritize Local Scholarships:** Explore opportunities offered by local businesses, community organizations, foundations, and civic groups.
- **Review Eligibility Requirements:** Carefully read each scholarship's criteria to ensure you qualify.
- **Use Your Network:** Reach out to school counselors, career coaches, college admissions representatives, and financial aid offices for scholarship information and guidance.
- **Apply for Smaller Awards:** Do not overlook scholarships with smaller award amounts. Multiple awards can add up and help cover educational expenses.
- **Submit a Polished Essay:** Write a clear, well-organized essay that highlights your goals, accomplishments, experiences, and personal strengths. Proofread carefully before submitting.
- **Keep Track of Deadlines:** Maintain a checklist of application deadlines to stay organized.
- **Start Early:** Give yourself plenty of time to gather materials, request recommendation letters, and complete applications. Avoid waiting until the last minute.

Remember: Every scholarship opportunity counts! Stay organized, apply consistently, and take advantage of the resources available to you.

FAFSA: YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARD FINANCIAL AID

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a free application that students complete to determine their eligibility for financial assistance to help pay for college, career and technical education programs, and other eligible post-secondary institutions.

Types of Financial Aid May Include:

- **Grants:** Financial assistance that does not need to be repaid.
- **Work-Study:** Opportunities for eligible students to earn money through part-time employment while attending school.
- **Student Loans:** Borrowed funds that must be repaid, typically with interest.

Planning to continue your education after high school? Completing the FAFSA is an important step toward exploring financial aid options and making your post-secondary goals more affordable.

2026-2027 BCS Career Coaches' Scholarship Listings

CLICK HERE TO VIEW



Visit studentaid.gov to get more information.

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- **OCTOBER 1:** FAFSA OPENS
- **OCTOBER 1**: BIRMINGHAM PROMISE OPENS (INTERNSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP)
- **NOVEMBER 5**: BIRMINGHAM PROMISE COLLEGE FAIR
- **FEBRUARY 1**: BIRMINGHAM PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE (4-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES)
- **FEBRUARY 22-26:** SPRING FREE COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK
- **MAY 1:** BIRMINGHAM PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
- (2-YEAR COLLEGES)

Career Coaches help guide and support students in navigating their career path. We help students identify goals, develop strategies and overcome obstacles.

CAREER COACH SERVICES

- Classroom presentations
- Kuder Assessments
- Post-Secondary assistance
- College application assistance
- FAFSA assistance
- Build student confidence
- Scholarship assistance
- Assistnace with Career Days/Fairs
- Job skills development
- Interviewing skills
- Resume assistance
- Coordinate guest speakers
- Career awareness
- Career exploration



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CONTACT YOUR CAREER COACH

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Office Location: A. H. Parker High School

THE LATEST SCOOP

CoolSpeak

- Sophomore students at A. H. Parker High School were locked in to every word as CoolSpeak speaker Chris Collins shared his motivational life story of resilience and rising to challenges. The experience was organized in collaboration with GEAR Up Achieve liaison, Mrs. Andrea Bennett.

UAB Trio Program Fall Trade Expo

- Students from G. W. Carver High School attended the UAB Trio Program's Fall Trade Expo held September 24, 2026 at the Birmingham Public Library. Featured career fields and pathways included skilled trades, certifications and healthcare, transportation (CDL), and more.

Pre ACT Chats

- Pre ACT chats were held at G.W. Carver High School in English and Math classrooms with juniors. Students discussed the importance of taking the ACT and the required scores for college admission and scholarships.

College Connections

- It is recruitment season and colleges and universities are visiting our high school campuses. It is important that students take advantage of these opportunities to have one-on-one conversations with recruiters to discuss admission and scholarships.
- Southern Union State Community College visited Jackson-Olin as a potential pipeline for interested students to transition into Auburn University. They also have an upcoming virtual visit with Mississippi Delta Community College.





Chris Collins with CoolSpeak engages with students at A. H. Parker High School.



Dr. Freeman, Coordinator, and nursing students tour the University of North Alabama campus.



Dr. Freeman, Coordinator, and nursing students tour the University of West Alabama campus.

THE LATEST SCOOP

Nursing Students Participate in 4-Day College Tour

- Junior and Senior nursing students had the opportunity to tour four colleges during Intersession. They visited the University of West Alabama, Troy University, the University of Alabama, and the University of North Alabama. Students from Carver, Huffman. Ramsay and Woodlawn participated with the tours.

FAFSA Initiatives

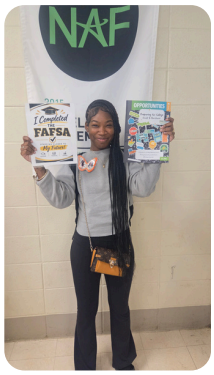
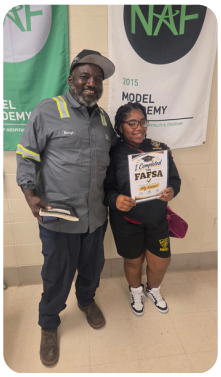
- Ramsay High School held it's FAFSA Mixer on October 24, 2026. Parents and students were able to receive FAFSA assistance. They were also able to speak with college representatives.
- Wenonah High School held its FAFSA Completion Day on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Seniors and parents were able to get assistance completing their FAFSA application.

Culinary Students Visit Jefferson State Community College

- Students in the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism at Wenonah High School toured the Culinary Department at Jefferson State Community College. They also had a live demonstration and were able to create their own Artisan Flatbread Pizza.

Lunch and Learn: Academy of CRAFT Training

- On September 9, 2026, partnering counselors, career coaches and administrators had the opportunity to tour the Academy of CRAFT Training facility. They also were able to see their students in action.

Students and parents at Wenonah High School completed their FAFSA application.




Students from the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism from Wenonah enjoyed their live presentation at Jefferson State Community College.





Career Coach Dr. Waynetta Turner and BCS Academy of CRAFT Training participants.