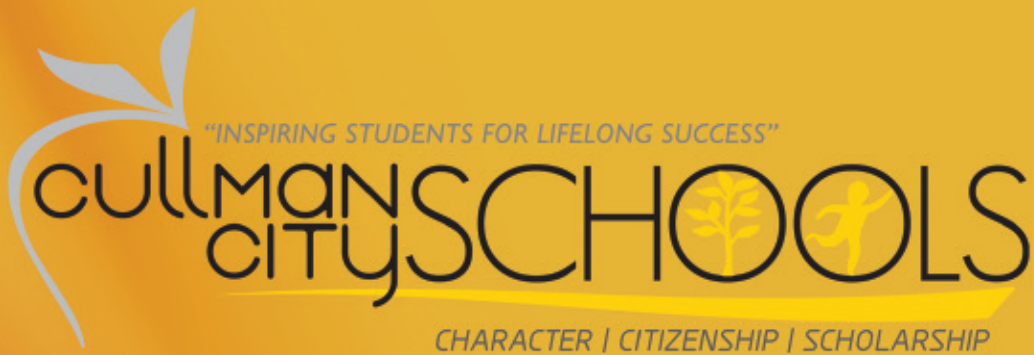


Annual Report 2008-2009



Ethnicity:

African American1%
 Asian1%
 Hispanic8%
 White90%

Enrollment:2865 students

CCPS 432, EAST 484, WEST 585, CMS
 489, CHS 875, Head Start 120

Attendance:97.0%

Per Pupil Expenditure: \$9,215.19

Graduation Rate:87%

Annual Budget:.....\$29.8 million

State54%
 Federal10%
 Local36%

Teacher Qualifications:

Doctorate1%
 AA8%
 Masters51%
 Bachelors40%

Employees:363 total

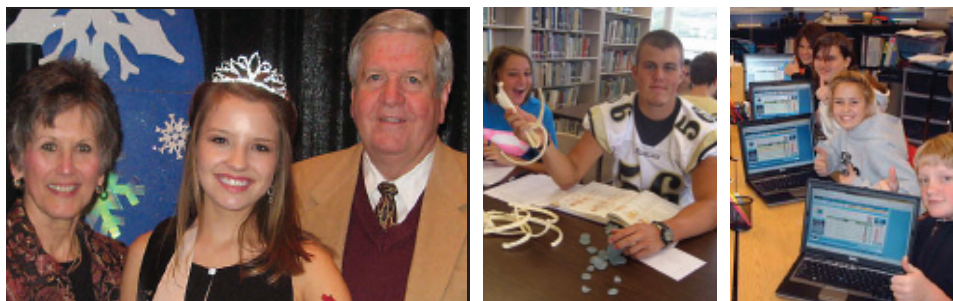
Support employees149
 Certified employees214

Ad valorem tax:17.5 mils

All schools are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Our system ranked 6th in the state on SAT-10, and 3rd and 4th on the writing assessment.

The first day I was here, I called my wife and began to tell her about the district. Her immediate response was: 'Maybe we should move (to Cullman).'

— Dr. Harold Fisher, SACS Quality Assurance Review Team Chair



What our Parents are Saying:

From the SACS District Accreditation CCS Parent Opinion Survey Results for Quality of the Instructional Program



The education offered to students at our school is of high quality. **96% agreed**
Teachers hold high expectations for student learning. **92% agreed**
Our school is doing a good job teaching language arts. **95% agreed**
Our school is doing a good job teaching mathematics. **90% agreed**
Our school is doing a good job teaching science. **89% agreed**
Our school is doing a good job teaching social studies. **89% agreed**
We feel schools should focus on all three of the "A's" of education – Academics, Arts, and Athletics. With equal support in all areas, a child will surely find his/her niche in life. Cullman City Schools does an excellent job at this.
— **Audrey Parker**

What our Teachers are Saying:

From the State TAKE 20 Survey



Teachers have sufficient access to technology that supports instruction, including computers, printers, software and internet access.
CCS – 95% agree STATE – 73%

Teachers have sufficient access to appropriate instructional materials and resources. CCS – 95% agree STATE – 79%

Teacher communication with parents, students, and colleagues is supported by reliable communication technology, including phones, faxes and email.
CCS – 96% agree STATE – 85%

Teachers have sufficient access to office equipment and supplies such as copy machines, paper, markers, etc. CCS – 94% agree STATE – 76%

School leadership encourages the faculty to meet high performance standards.
CCS – 97% agree STATE – 88%

Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn.
CCS – 96% agree STATE – 87%

Thanks for the "extras" we are allowed to have here in CCS. I feel so blessed (and a little spoiled) to work in our system.
— **Priscilla Garrison, CCPS Teacher**

Cullman City Schools **inkling** CHALLENGE 2008-2009

Think it!
Ink it!
Live it!

A Character Quote Contest to promote excellence in character and creativity through writing

TOP TEN WINNERS:

"Turn off your voice to listen."

- Jay Goodno and Bryce Monk
Cullman City Primary School
1st Grade

"Choices make life."

-Connor Milligan
Cullman Middle School
8th Grade

"Choose your friends carefully. They're your own reflection."

-Luke Oakley
West Elementary School
5th Grade

"Everyone is born an individual; don't die a copy."

-Dallas Williams
Cullman High School
10th Grade

"Good enough is the enemy of excellence."

-Rachel Kincaid
East Elementary School
6th Grade

"Caring is letting someone else go first."

-Mrs. Bates' Class
Cullman City Primary School
1st Grade

"Be the person that you would look up to."

-James Hovater
West Elementary School
6th Grade

"Just because no one understands you, doesn't make you an artist."

-Jacob Hendrix
Cullman Middle School
8th Grade

"A caring man is richer than a rich man who does not care."

-Sarah Ray
East Elementary School
6th Grade

"If at first you don't succeed, reload!"

-Jared Knight
Cullman High School
12th Grade



Superintendent's Message

Dr. Jan Irons Harris

Greetings from Cullman City Schools!

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am pleased to provide a snapshot of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students during the 2008-2009 school year. These accomplishments would not have been possible without our dedicated faculty and staff, and the support of our parents and community leaders. Gratitude is extended to all who helped us continue the tradition of excellence. We especially want to thank Congressman Robert Aderholt, Governor Bob Riley and State Superintendent Dr. Joe Morton for the \$250,000 ARC grant we received for SMART Technology. Because of this grant, our students have state-of-the-art technology in classrooms and science labs. We also want to thank Senator Zeb Little for securing a \$250,000 grant to assist with the construction of a new library media center at West. We appreciate our supportive elected officials: Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom, Senator Zeb Little, and Representatives Jeremy Oden and James Fields; and Mayor Max Townson and the members of the Cullman City Council.

This year we celebrated 100 years of excellence. Numerous Centennial Celebration events were held during the year. We are thankful for the CCS Foundation and the financial support it offers to our faculty and students. In particular, we thank President and Vice-President Jeff Hogeland and Suzanne Harbin and all the members of the Foundation Board. Additionally, we wish to thank our Adopt-A-School partners: Cullman Jefferson Gas, Traditions Bank, Premier Bank of the South, First Federal, and Wachovia.

We are extremely proud of our students who surpassed state and national averages on all assessments! Our students improved their test

scores again this year. In Alabama, they are ranked 6th on the SAT-10 test, 5th and 10th graders are ranked 3rd on their ADAW (writing scores) while seventh graders ranked 4th place. Our high school students' average ACT score is 22.5 as compared to the state average of 20.3.

We are proud of our schools. West Elementary was selected as one of twelve schools in Alabama as a CLAS Banner School. Additionally, West was nominated as a U.S. Blue Ribbon School. East Elementary was one of four schools in Alabama that earned Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Accreditation. And, Dr. Elton Bouldin, principal at West Elementary School, was named AAESA District I Distinguished Principal. Cullman High School added a Bible Literacy Class among its curricular offerings and had more students register for it than we could actually teach.

Our students excel in diversified extracurricular offerings. Cheerleading, Algebra II and Geometry Teams won State Championships! And, our Softball Team came in 2nd in the State. Our outstanding Band, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Smith, earned superior ratings throughout the year. We added a Strings program at Cullman Middle School, and our Choir continued to explode under the direction of Mr. Josh Agnew.

We, in Cullman City Schools, value service to others. Through our Service Learning Endorsement program, we strive to instill a lifelong dedication to service to others in our students. Forty seniors voluntarily earned the prestigious Service Learning Endorsement seal on their CHS diplomas in May by volunteering 50 hours in our community.

The Cullman City School district is a leader in our state and nation. Our school district was featured this year in the National School Board Association's "Magna Best Practices Database" and their September issue of *Electronic School*. Also, CCS was featured in the April/May issue of *EdTech* journal as well as the May issue of *Business Alabama*. In June, we received notification that CCS was selected as one of three school districts in the nation for the National School Board Association's prestigious "Salute Districts" due to our seamless technology immersion. School Board Attorney J.R. Brooks was selected as one of The Best Lawyers in America in the specialities of Commercial Litigation and Education Law.

We achieved SACS District Accreditation this year. We continue to offer our students a well-rounded educational experience through a rigorous academic program, diversified extracurricular opportunities along with physically demanding athletic opportunities.

In closing, I want to welcome our new and returning board members. It is an honor and a privilege for me to work with President Brenda Howell, Vice-President Suzanne Harbin, Kim Addison, Jason Neal and Steve Sides along with the faculty, staff and students of Cullman City Schools.



2009 Average ACT Scores

No. Tested		English		Math		Reading		Science		Composite	
CHS	State	CHS	State	CHS	State	CHS	State	CHS	State	CHS	State
143	35,809	22.9	20.5	21.8	19.5	22.5	20.7	22.5	20.1	22.5	20.3

Principals' Summary



Cullman City Primary
Tricia Culpepper,
Principal

- Teacher Allison Bates was named Cullman City Schools Teacher of the Year and Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year.
- Guidance Counselor Jennifer Sparkman was named president of Cullman Caring for Kids.
- CCPS received a Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award and a PALS (People Against a Littered State) 2nd Place award.
- The PTO sponsored Outdoor Movie night, Secret Santa Shop and "send your teacher packing" contest, and purchased tables for the outdoor learning center.
- Students raised \$1,555 for St. Jude's.
- The Head Start program received SACS and NAEYC accreditation.
- CCPS has five National Board Certified Teachers.
- First grade students participated in Wallace State's "Let's Pretend Hospital".



East Elementary
David Wiggins,
Principal

- 5th grade student Joey Myers' poem entitled, "Troubles Come and Go" was published by *The American Library of Poetry*.
- All students participated in World Math Day using laptops and classroom computers to compete with students all over the world.
- Students raised \$2,162 through *Jump Rope for Heart* for the American Heart Association.
- The Veteran's Day Program honored 52 veterans representing service in eight wars.
- Teacher Kristi Jackson earned National Board Certification, one of four EES teachers with that distinction.

- Students donated 8,102 food items to Caring For Kids Food Bank.
- Students celebrated Earth Day with a school-wide Clean Campus Project. They removed debris, planted flowers and shrubs, cultivated beds, collected recyclables and transported them to the recycling center, and the Student Council planted an apple tree on the south lawn.
- EES was awarded a grant from the National Dairy Council for their innovative Grab-N-Go Breakfast Program.
- Renovation of the historic main building was completed. The project restored historic pine wood floors and installed replica antique schoolhouse lighting.
- 6th grade students and teachers attended Space Camp at Huntsville Space and Rocket Center.
- EES created a Physical Education Fitness Lab with Wii Systems, PlayStation Cate-eye Bicycles, Junior Treadmills, Gazelles, Stationary Bikes, and Rowing Machines.
- The Student Council donated to Make-a-Wish Foundation, Relay for Life, student benevolence funds, and sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive.
- EES students presented *Oklahoma!* under the direction of Mrs. Cindy Pass.
- Teacher Fonda Sherrill was selected by the faculty as East Teacher of the Year.
- EES was named a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence.



West Elementary
Dr. Elton Bouldin,
Principal

- Alabama State Superintendent Dr. Joe Morton nominated WES for USDE's 2009 NCLB Blue Ribbon School recognition.
- Digital resource upgrades were made in all classrooms, with wireless access, laptop labs and interactive Smart Technologies.
- The 6th grade Math Team garnered a record five math tournament championships.
- Guidance Counselor Lesia York was recognized as a *Cullman Times* Unsung Hero.

- Third grade teacher Amy Brown earned National Board Certification.
- WES students set record school academic rankings on both the Stanford Achievement Tests and Alabama Writing Assessment in 2009.
- Physical Education *Jump Rope for Hearts* and *Hoops for Heart* raised \$7,100.
- WES was named a 2009 CLAS Banner School by Council for Leaders of Alabama Schools.
- Construction began on a new media center due in part to Senator Zeb Little securing a \$250,000 construction grant.
- Teacher Vicki Parker was selected by the faculty as West Teacher of the Year.
- Student Drake Hollingsworth was the Alabama Beta Club Math Champion.
- *The Cullman Times* recognized WES as Top Organization in the Cullman Caring for Kids Canned Food Drive.
- WES received a Cullman Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award.
- Principal Dr. Elton Bouldin was named AAESA District I Distinguished Principal.



Cullman Middle
Lane Hill,
Principal

- Student Leah Pappas won 1st place in charcoal sketching at the 2009 State Beta Club Convention.
- Student Christina Oanca took part in GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science) program at UAB. She presented the project *Building a City on Geometry*.
- The CMS Math Tournament was held on Pi Day (March 14, 2009). Over 400 students attended from across Alabama. The 7th grade Math Team had eight first place awards and two second place awards during the year.
- Students Cody Stidham and Mark Gomez were the winners of the local Civitan Club's essay contest.
- CMS received a Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award.

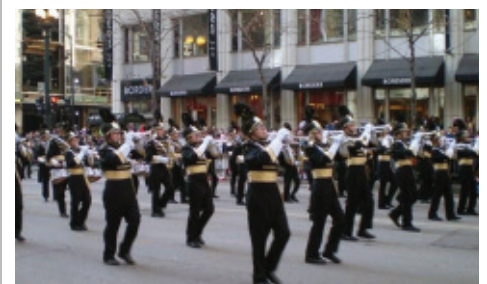
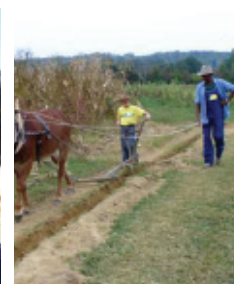
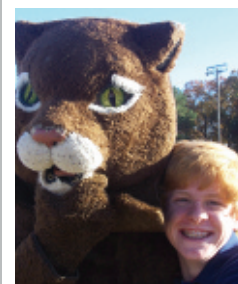
- Teacher Nancy Spurgeon was selected by faculty as CMS Teacher of the Year.
- All classes now have multimedia projectors, SmartBoards, and document cameras; and all students have laptops.
- Renovation of the academic buildings was completed. Hardwood floors were restored, lighting was improved, and fresh paint was added along with new furniture.
- The CMS Band Course taught by Linda Bean was selected by the Desire2EXCEL Award program as one of 12 nominees from the international Desire2Learn User Community for the Teaching & Learning Category.
- Mr. Lucas McCollum and his students relandscaped the campus.
- Winners for "Imagining the Holocaust" creative writing contest were Keaton Oliver, Victoria Kinkennon, Bree Travis, Sadi Hulgan, Jessica Johnson.



Cullman High
Sheila Phillips,
Principal

- Cullman High School celebrated 100 years of education!
- Student Cassie Black was named Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Student of the Year.
- The Symphonic Band received all superior ratings at State Contest for the 16th straight year. The Marching Band was chosen to represent Alabama in the 75th Annual McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago, and performed in front of millions on national television.
- Student Michael Addison was State Champion in Pole Vault.
- Student Jordan Johnson was crowned Cullman County's Junior Miss.
- Eagle Scout Awards were achieved by Nick Lee, Zane Smith, and Jade Lancaster.
- CHS Softball was Regional and State Runner-Up and Area Champ. Marc Ponder was named 5A State Coach of the Year.
- Teacher Bill Bagley received National Board Certification.
- Shelley Perry was named Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and CHS Secondary Teacher of the Year.

- The Algebra II and Geometry Teams were State Champions. Luke Lindsey, Josh Oanca, and Jim Crowder all placed 1st in their divisions.
- Student Tyler Shugarts was named an Alabama Bryant/Jordan Scholar Athlete.
- Student Allison Howell won the singles tennis #6 State Championship, and both the girls and boys teams were Tennis Section Champions.
- The Leo Club raised over \$1,100 for Alabama Lions. Ragan Chastain, sponsor, was awarded the Leo Club Advisor Service Award from the Cullman Lions Club.
- Student Viet Huynh was named a National Merit Scholar.
- Janice Cook, CHS librarian, received a *Picturing America* grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- The CHS Foreign Language department won numerous awards at state competitions.
- Key Club raised over \$4,200 for national, state, and local charities.
- Hayden Faulk, carpentry teacher, and the Skills USA Club assisted with the Homebuilders Children's Rodeo.
- The CHS drama department presented *Graceland*, *Asleep on the Wind*, and the children's play, *The Real Story of Little Red Riding Hood*. Over 3,000 children attended these performances.
- CHS received the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Award.
- Construction began on the new auxiliary gymnasium; planning meetings were held for construction of new science classrooms/labs and renovations to the existing building.
- The Football Team was Region Champion, and the Baseball Team was Area 12 Champion.
- CHS Cheerleaders were the 5A State Champions for the 4th consecutive year.
- The Girls Basketball Team was Area Runner-Up.
- CHS Girls Soccer was Regional Runner-Up. They advanced to the 2nd round of the state playoffs. Boys were Region Champs. They also advanced to the 2nd round of the state playoffs.
- Boys and Girls Swimming and Wrestling were added as new sports.





Cullman City Primary School

Tricia Culpepper, Principal
Head Start, Pre-K, Grades K-1
900 Hoehn Drive
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-0234

Alabama Reading Initiative - ARI; Positive Discipline; Head Start (NAEYC and SACS accredited); wi-fi school; Music Program; Accelerated Reading; and Extended Day Program
<http://ccps.cullmancats.net>



East Elementary School

David Wiggins, Principal
Grades 2-6
608 Fourth Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-2232

Alabama Reading Initiative - ARI; Gifted Education; Parent Teacher Organization; Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative – AMSTI; Math & Scholars Bowl Teams; Music & Art Program; wi-fi school; Blue Ribbon School Lighthouse School of Excellence.
<http://ees.cullmancats.net>



West Elementary School

Dr. Elton Bouldin, Principal
Grades 2-6
303 Rosemont Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-4271

School Digger "Four Star" Elementary School; HEAL Demonstration School; Alabama Reading Initiative - ARI; Alabama Best Practices Professional Development; wi-fi school; National PTA Chapter; Academic Clubs & Teams; Fine Arts Program.
<http://wes.cullmancats.net>



Cullman Middle School

Lane Hill, Principal
Grades 7-8
800 Second Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-7959

1:1 Laptop Initiative; Middle School Concept; Alabama Best Practices 21st Century Schools Initiative; Smart Technologies; wi-fi school; Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative - AMSTI; Art & Music Program; and Health & Wellness PE Program
<http://cms.cullmancats.net>



Cullman High School

Sheila Phillips, Principal
Grades 9-12
510 Thirteenth Street NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-3923

168 Graduates in 2009; \$2,767,422 in Scholarships Offered; Average ACT Score 22.5 (State avg. 20.3); Advanced Placement Courses; Science in Motion; 1:1 Laptop Initiative; Smart Technologies; wi-fi school; Scholars Bowl and Math Teams; Performing Arts & Band; and 30 Athletic Teams
<http://chs.cullmancats.net>



Central Office

301 1st Street NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-2233
Fax 256-737-9621

Dr. Jan Irons Harris, Superintendent
Russell Raney, Chief School Finance Officer
Coordinators:
Dr. Bridgette Chandler, Career Tech
Anita Overturf, Support Services
Alan Pass, Technology
Sharon Windham, Federal Programs
Debbie Wright, Student Services
<http://www.cullmancats.net>

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in any program or activity, on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age.