

The Voice From Within

September 2018

BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

Our Focus:
Student Achievement, Accountability, Attendance
Turning It All Around

Dr. Thelma F. Sojourner, Superintendent

www.bamberg2.org

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held



Denmark-Olar High School students joined local, state and federal officials in breaking ground for the district's new facilities.

On August 24, legislative officials, school board members, administrators, school staff, parents and students witnessed the long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony, signaling the beginning of construction of a new Pre-K through 8 facility and complete renovation of the current Denmark-Olar High School. The district finalized a \$38 million USDA loan on July 9 in order to combine its three existing schools on the property where Denmark-Olar High School is now located. A new stadium and other athletic facilities will also be added.

District Superintendent, Dr. Thelma Sojourner, thanked Sixth Congressional District Representative James Clyburn and SC House District 90 Representative Justin Bamberg, for their support throughout the process. Also in attendance were Dr. Gerald Wright, Mayor of Denmark and former district superintendent and Mrs. Debbie Turbeville, State Director of USDA Rural Development. Phanisha Williams, president of the Denmark-Olar High School Student Council, stated, "We know there are many people to thank who have made this possible. There are many who had a vision and many who went to the polls and voted for this school. We will make you proud of us." Mr. Larry Bias, chairman of the Bamberg 2 Board of Trustees stated, "We have buildings that were built in 1953 and 1954. Our kids deserve to be able to learn in the same type of facilities as the kids upstate." On behalf of the board members, he expressed his appreciation to those who voted in favor of the school bond referendum in November 2016.



DOHS students and faculty formed the word "YES" to celebrate the "YES" vote that gave us our new school.

Thanks to Sgts. Robinson and Leveretter for getting it done!

Additional photos of the groundbreaking ceremony are displayed on the district's website: www.bamberg2.org

STUDENTS of the MONTH

September 2018

Congratulations to the following students who were selected Students of the Month at their respective schools and received plaques and certificates from the Board of Trustees and Superintendent during the September 4 Board meeting.



Jakaila Banda
D-O Elementary School



Tyliyah Folk
D-O Middle School



Peaches Patterson
D-O High School

School Board News



At the August 6 school board meeting, board members extended an early welcome to students returning to school on August 20 for the 2018-2019 school year!

The board expressed their desire for a productive, successful school year for all of our students and staff.



Bishop Tonie Holman was recognized for having reached Level 6, the highest level of training in the SC School Board Association's Boardmanship Institute.



At the August 6 meeting, board members and the superintendent signed the \$38 million USDA loan closing documents for the new school/renovations, authorizing the beginning of construction.

Left to right: Mr. Larry Bias, Chair; Mrs. Blossom Thompson, Vice Chair; Mrs. Loretta Goodman, Secretary; Mrs. Beverly Bonaparte, Member; Bishop Tonie Holman, Member Sealed: Dr. Thelma Sojourner, Superintendent.

School Opening Events

TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR SELECTED



Mrs. Deon Branch
2018-2019 Teacher of the Year



Mrs. Beverlyn Smith
2018-2019 Paraprofessional of the Year

At the school opening luncheon held August 14, the district recognized the candidates for District Teacher and Paraprofessional of the Year. The Teacher of the Year candidates were:

- Ms. Wanda Jones, Elementary School
- Mrs. Mattie Jamison, Middle School
- Mrs. Deon Branch, High School

Mrs. Deon Branch was selected as the district's 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year.



L-R: Mrs. Deon Branch, Ms. Wanda Jones, Mrs. Mattie Jamison



L-R: Ms. Jeannette Bamberg, Mrs. Beverlyn Smith, Mrs. Queenie Sanders

The Paraprofessional of the Year candidates were:

- Ms. Jeannette Bamberg, Elementary School
- Mrs. Beverlyn Smith, Middle School
- Mrs. Queenie Sanders, High School

Mrs. Beverlyn Smith was selected as the district's 2018-2019 Paraprofessional of the Year.

Other recognitions included staff members who received pins for their years of service to the district:

5 Years



L-R: Barry Leveretter, Tony Barker, Simone Hinds-Moncrieffe, Andrea Sanders, Lataryl Youmans, Willie D. Fields, Daryl Brockington, Willie Capehart;
Not pictured: Kayla Carter, Shelby Berry

10 Years



L-R: Camille Benjamin Davis, Albertha Smith, DeEbony Chisolm

15 Years



L-R: Zelda Douglas, Latonya Greene

20 Years



L-R: Jeannette Bamberg, Mary Jane Jackson

30 Years



L-R: Frances Geler, Deloris Davis, Rose Fields
Not pictured: Jasper Jennings



Mrs. Willie Dell Fields was recognized for achieving Perfect Attendance for the 2017-2018 school year.



The District kicked off the 2018-2019 school year at its second annual **Meet the Vikings Night** on August 23 at the high school. The event was well attended and the crowd enjoyed student dance performances, appearances by the schools' royal courts, cheerleaders and athletic teams. The Family Health Center's staff was also on hand to provide free blood pressure screenings and other health related information. The event concluded with door prizes and refreshments.





Congratulations!

MRS. DEON BRANCH
Denmark-Olar High School



Mrs. Branch was recognized at the September 4 Board of Trustees meeting and received a certificate and \$25 check.

PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW

Dear Parents:

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Bamberg School District Two would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher -
 - * has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - * is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - * is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact your child's principal.

Ruby J. Johnson, Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum/Instructional Services

If you
See something
Say
something

Stay Safe!

Bamberg School District Two is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Students, staff, and parents all have an important role in promoting school safety by following procedures and reporting concerns. It is also important to balance sufficient building security with a healthy, nurturing, school environment.

We ask that you report anything suspicious to your child's principal, whether it's a comment or post on social media, a conversation overheard, your child's remark at the dinner table about something another student said at school, bullying or unsafe behavior, or anything else that causes you concern. The District will work to identify and investigate any threat, and we will take action to try to prevent any dangerous activity.

While our mission is the education of all students, school safety is the number one priority for the district.