

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

A Quarterly Newsletter to our Stakeholders



October 2018

Fall is finally here! I have always loved this time of year. I love the cool and crisp air, the turning colors of the trees, and the promise of the holiday season. This is also the time when schools get into a groove. Students have settled into their studies. Teachers are still invigorated with the new possibilities for student growth. Parents have become accustomed to the new courses and classrooms. Autumn is a time of reflection of the past and hope for what will come in the future. First quarter has just ended at OAA and it is also a time of reflection and hope as we begin this second quarter.

REFLECT

It is time to reflect on where we have succeeded and failed. It is also a time to hope the plans developed and the vision casted will come to fruition. We have dealt with some difficult times over the past nine weeks. We have coped with the tragic murder of Carvell Goodlow. We have comforted and mourned with Chaplain Daniels as he dealt with his father's passing. We have made errors along the way. We have tried to remedy some and have had to simply apologize for others. Along the way we have applied lessons learned in order to improve our process going forward.

There have also been exciting things that have occurred. Our varsity girls' volleyball team made a playoff run that ended with them competing in the Super Regionals at the Von Braun Center - the first time in school history! We have two new wonderful Vice Principals and have already reaped the benefits of their expertise. We've witnessed our students give their lives to Jesus and be baptized. Our Iowa Assessment scores improved for a third straight year. We have received reports from professors that our students are excelling, and in many cases outperforming university students in their dual enrollment courses. Our students have exhibited their leadership skills and been honored for their accomplishments. The past nine weeks have been filled with evidence that God has blessed this institution, our teachers, our students and families, and the vision and mission of the school.

HOPE

It is a time to hope for things not seen. We are all hopeful that our building plans come to fruition. We continue to pray that God's guidance and providence leads the way. Currently, we have run into a few bumps on this road. The cost of the new high school building is more than expected due to two reasons.

First, recent Alabama statutes now mandate that school building projects include a tornado shelter that can accommodate the entire expected population of the new building. This mandate has increased costs immensely. Also, steel and concrete prices have skyrocketed since the enactment of the tariffs by the Federal Government. Even so, God has used these obstacles as blessings. The new tornado shelter will not only be able to hold the entire high school population but the entire K-12 school population. The safety of our students and faculty will be enhanced because of this addition. God has also inspired our financial leaders to prepare for possible cost increases and the school has the ability to cover more than half of the expected cost increase without any fundraising or budgetary changes. Praise God! At the same time, we are still diligently working to locate funds for the other half of the expected cost increase. Please pray, hope, and give to this end. God has provided this opportunity for us to complete Phase 3 and we know He will prepare and reveal the way. As we reflect and hope, let us continue to prepare ourselves for God to move and bless. He has done so many wonderful things in our community and this is only the beginning! Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6, NIV). Amen!

***"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1:6, NIV)***