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Town of Pike Road
9575 Vaughn Road
Pike Road, AL 36064

Contact:
Turner Waddell, Communications Specialist
Phone: (334) 495-4109, (864) 958-6577
Email: Turner@pikeroad.us

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Pike Road Schools Prepare Students for Future Opportunities *Young School System Continues Strong Growth*

PIKE ROAD, Ala. – As the Pike Road Schools system (PRS) prepares to enter its fourth year of operation, student opportunities abound alongside the hard work and clear vision of administrators, teachers and Town of Pike Road leadership. In March, PRS became one of ten Alabama school systems to receive a grant from A+ College Ready, which will provide resources, teacher training and student opportunities in the Advanced Placement (AP®) program. In the 2018-2019 school year, Pike Road Schools will grow to hold grade levels k-11, and will offer 6 AP® courses to high school students. As the student body grows, so does the need for additional facilities. Together, Town of Pike Road and Pike Road Schools leadership are committed to providing for these needs through innovative learning spaces.

“At Pike Road Historic School, we understand the importance of giving our students a competitive edge through a challenging curriculum and increased opportunities,” said David Sikes, Principal at Pike Road Historic School. “With the addition of an Advanced Placement program, our students will have increased scholarship and early college credit opportunities, and a competitive edge in the application process. This fits perfectly with the goals for the A+ College Ready organization.”

“We continue to work to help our students understand that graduation is one step on the road to success, not the finish line,” said Pike Road Schools Superintendent Dr. Chuck Ledbetter. “By providing college credit, AP courses help prepare our students for future success and give them a foot in the door as they move forward to the next level in life and education.”

Creating an environment that encourages learning, growth and engagement requires both planning and vision. At this time, engineering and development partners are working to provide temporary classrooms for the 2018-2019 eleventh grade students at the Pike Road Historic School. Also, the Innovation Campus for Agriculture, Life Sciences and Wellness on Trotman Road will begin with phase one of construction. Known as Patriot Park, this is an important part of preparing the young people for optimal learning. This education and recreation complex will provide additional resources, including flexible learning spaces and facilities for PRS leadership. This development is one aspect of a larger plan to provide unique facilities and learning opportunities throughout the Town of Pike Road.

As Pike Road continues to move forward, planning, design and construction teams will continue to work with both school and town leadership to identify the best options for constructing more permanent classroom spaces to meet students' needs. A plan for an expanded high school facility is also being developed.

"It is invigorating to see PRS leadership partner with organizations like A+ College Ready to prepare students for higher education. Further, the Innovation Campus for Agriculture, Life Sciences and Wellness provides a great opportunity for all of our students to apply their learning to cutting-edge research. It will help expand the students' horizons about what they can accomplish," said Town of Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. "We are proud to help PRS provide innovative and effective facility resources that encourage every child to reach their God-given potential."

From A+ College Ready: The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has partnered with A+ College Ready for more than 10 years to develop this initiative. Next year's cohort will be the 11th group of schools participating in this statewide college-readiness program since its founding. ALSDE credits this partnership for helping thousands of Alabama students become college and career ready.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Turner Waddell by calling (334) 495-4109 or (864) 958-6577 or by emailing turner@pikeroad.us.

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