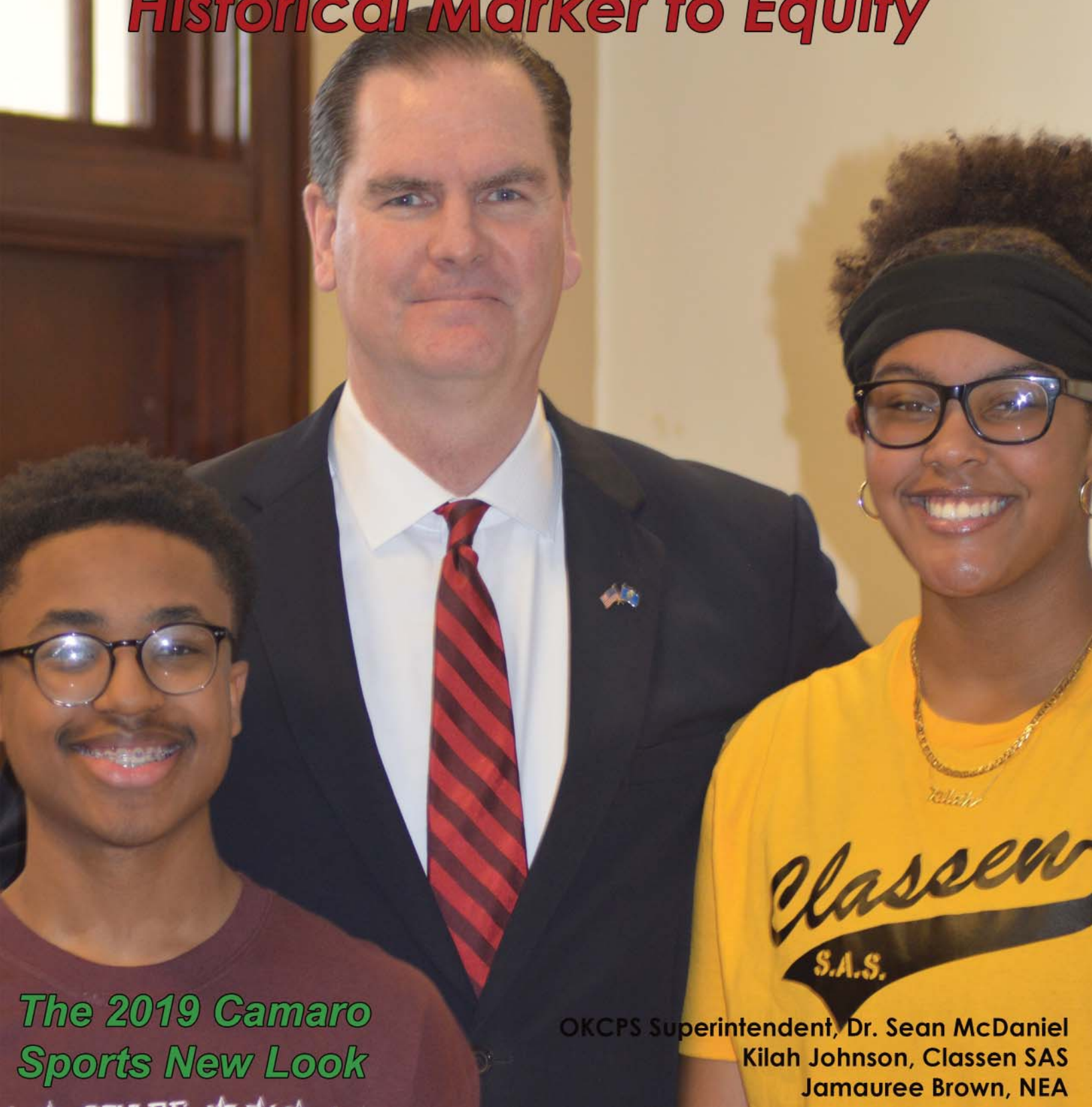


# The Norsemen Scroll

Spring 2019/ A Commemorative Edition  
[www.okcps.org/Northeast](http://www.okcps.org/Northeast)

*The Pathway to Greatness is the  
Historical Marker to Equity*



*The 2019 Camaro  
Sports New Look*

OKCPS Superintendent, Dr. Sean McDaniel  
Kilah Johnson, Classen SAS  
Jamauree Brown, NEA

# Meet the Norsemen Staff

## Welcome to the Norsemen Scroll!

Greetings Vikings,

**W**e, the Norsemen staff, are made up of determined co-editors and a columnist, a leadership team to communicate NEA's student voice. We have the grit to bring the news to you. The Norsemen Scroll will share Viking coverage, detailing the closing out of a 83 year institution of learning and service. As the last graduating class of Northeast Academy for Health Science and Engineering, we would like to bid our alma mater farewell. Moving forward on the Pathway to Greatness - Equity requires change!



A proven forerunner, **Cornelious Florence**, a senior, is a committed student inside and outside of the classroom. He currently serves as a state officer for Business Professionals of America (BPA), the Class Matters President, and as a school announcer. Florence exemplifies the NEA standard for student leadership. Florence loves Harry Potter and enjoys public speaking.

### Table of Contents

*Meet the Norsemen Staff....2*

*The 2019 Camaro Sports New Look.....3*

*The Pathway to Greatness is a Historical Marker for Equity .....4*

**cornelious florence**

*Co-Editor*

**twan'yaе kinchion**

*Co-Editor*

**Twan'yaе A. Kinchion** is a native Oklahoman, seeking and inspiring to become a journalist. Kinchion says she is interested in exploring the multifaceted horizons of written communication. She says loves writing, because it allows her to express her artistic and her optimistic perspectives. In the future, Kinchion plans to incorporate her writing skills into a career and throughout life.



Meet the Norsemen Staff continued on page 3





**cortez cruikshank**  
*Automobile Columnist*

**Cortez Cruikshank** is a sophomore at NEA. He plans to attend college and obtain a degree in engineering, with a desire to launch his dream career at Nascar. Cruikshank has a passion for cars, old television shows/ cartoons, poetry, and of course, Nascar.

## The 2019 Camaro Sports New Look

**by cortez cruikshank**  
*Columnist*

Just before the New Year rolled in, car enthusiasts and particularly Camaro fans were in shock when General Motors (GM) unveiled a concept design for the 2019 model, showcasing its new front end.

However, GM's sporty vehicle's modification was not well received.

Various social media outlets criticized the Camaro's redesigned grill, stating its overall frontal appearance was unattractive. After the auto giant reviewed the negative backlash, the car manufacturer decided to perform a rush job and redesign the Camaro's front end just before its official release. Other minor enhancements included changes to Camaro's interior and exterior. **NS**



**2019 Camaro**

# The Pathway to Greatness is a Historical Marker for Equity

Educational equity is a byproduct of change – today and historically.

The Pathway to Greatness (P2G) is the modern day reconfiguration of the 1969 A.L. Dowell vs Oklahoma City Public Schools lawsuit that jump started integration within the district.

In March 2019, the OKCPS Board unanimously voted 8-0, approving P2G at Northeast Academy, where Dowell's successful lawsuit gained his son entrance into the segregated Northeast High School 50 years ago.

Dowell was a prominent Oklahoma City, African American optometrist, who sued and won his case against the OKCPS Board, resulting in the 1972 Finger Plan that facilitated court ordered busing to integrate schools.

Mirroring the Dowell vs Board of OKCPS' case, P2G has redrawn school boundaries, reassigned students and personnel, repurposed facilities, as well as closed 15 schools districtwide.

According to a 2011 Oklahoman article, entitled Integration Drastically Reduces Oklahoma City Schools' Population, in 1972, OKCPS' enrollment peaked at 71,000. Today, some 4 decades later, the district currently serves 45,000 students, a 36 percent decrease.

"It's not about the plan alone, but it is about giving kids equity, better opportunities, and sustainability. It's about following through, not just dreaming about the 'what ifs'," OKCPS Superintendent, Dr. Sean McDaniel said.

The P2G overhaul comes with the expected price tag of around \$11 million, which will be paid out by left over money from previous bonds.

As a result of the P2G, Classen School of Advanced Studies (SAS) will merge with Northeast Academy, closing out NEA's 83 year presence, creating a new comprehensive, culturally diverse high school.

As the state and national education funding dwindled year after year and living patterns shifted, the district's reconstruction was imminent.

The primary beneficiaries of P2G are the OKCPS students. Many say they are hopeful and embrace the revolutionary process, scheduled to roll out in the 2019-2020 school year.

Kilah Johnson, a junior at Classen said, "I look forward to coming to NEA next year. We will have more classes to choose from, more activities, and a variety friends to enjoy. I am excited that our student body is becoming more diverse."

P2G is continued on page 5

Sherri Harris, a retired NEA librarian and a returning support staff member, says she believes the merger will update and restore the science division the institution has lost over the years.

“I hate to see the change of Northeast, being a separate entity, but over the years, the science department has not been maintained. They haven’t been updated and maybe this merger with Classen will bring the science department back to its full running capacity. This has been a health, science, and engineering school for a while, but we have not had the proper science classes,” Harris said.

During her tenure, Harris said NEA and Classen students have always collaborated.

“NEA and Classen coming together is nothing new,” Harris said. “As school populations began to decline, we played sports and participated in the band together for years.”

Classen will be housed at NEA, and the current NEA students have the option to remain, an opportunity, Jamauree Brown, a NEA junior, plans to exercise.



**Sherri Harris,  
NEA Retired Librarian**

I don’t plan on leaving. I am going to stay and graduate with my new friends and my old friends,” he said.

Shane Sanders, NEA’s current assistant principal, will serve as Classen’s assistant principal next school year, and he says the merger is good for kids. In early spring, NEA hosted a get acquainted, relationship building session, allowing both groups of students the opportunity to get to know each other.



**Shane Sanders,  
NEA Assistant Principal**

“The meet and greet’s top takeaway was about two groups from two different buildings taking advantage of an opportunity to get together, learn from each other, and to fellowship with one another. That is one of the reasons we have school. We come to be exposed to a different culture, gain exposure to the different ways we do things in the buildings. We will grow and learn from each other.” Sanders said.

Restrictions and barriers toward educational attainment are formulated in various ways. However, historically, schooling opportunities typically make full circle, resulting in a pathway to equity for all.

“Again, P2G is more than a plan. It is the connection for a better life for all our children,” McDaniel said. **NS**

**The Northeast Academy’s Norsemen Scroll Editorial Policy**

The Northeast Academy (NEA) Editorial staff will electronically publish the Norsemen Scroll each semester. The purpose of the Norsemen Scroll is to promote, market, and showcase news stories, creative features, extra-curricular highlights, sports, and alumni contributions, which impact NEA’s students, parents, guardians, alumni, stakeholders, and the community at-large.

We, the NEA editorial staff, welcome all comments, opinions, questions and/or concerns. Please email your inquiries to the Norsemen Scroll’s advisor, Deena Thomas, at [dvtthomas@okcps.org](mailto:dvtthomas@okcps.org). Archived copies of the Norsemen Scroll can be found by visiting <http://www.okcps.org/Northeast>.