FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2019

U. S. Secretary of Education Announces 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL 12:00 pm Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019

Montgomery, Ala. – Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized 362 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019. The recognition is based on a school’s overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

“We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. “As a National Blue Ribbon School, your school demonstrates what is possible when committed educators hold all students and staff to high standards and create vibrant, innovative cultures of teaching and learning.”

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

The five Alabama public schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools today are:

- Mobile County Schools System - Eichold-Mertz School of Math and Science
- Marion County Schools System - Guin Elementary School
- Baldwin County Schools System - Daphne Elementary School
- Huntsville City Schools System - Hampton Cove Elementary
- Montgomery County Schools System - Baldwin Arts and Academics Magnet School

Now in its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools. On November 14 and 15, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 312 public and 50 non-public school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools are among their state’s highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

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ALABAMA’S 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED TODAY

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

Access to the official 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools announcement information is available at the following online resources:

- https://ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools
- https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov
- https://twitter.com/NatlBlueRibbon
- https://twitter.com/usedgov
- https://www.facebook.com/nationalblueribbonschools

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photographs and brief descriptions of the 2019 National Blue Ribbon Schools are available at https://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools.

Additional information about this prestigious national award can also be obtained by contacting the National Press Office at (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov.

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