



# Muscofee County School District

2960 Macon Road Columbus, GA 31906

**For Immediate Release**

**Valerie Fuller**

Director of Communications & Open Records Officer

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**Release Date:** January 4, 2016

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Dedication Ceremony**

**Dr. Roland Bird Daniel**  
**Jordan High School Media Center**

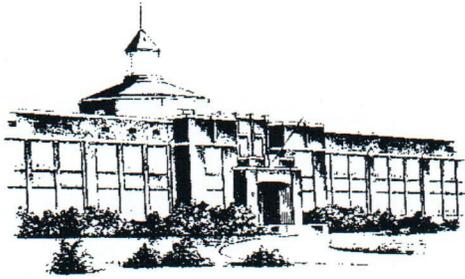
**Tuesday, January 5, 2016**

**10:30 A.M.**

3200 Howard Avenue  
Columbus, Georgia 31904

For more information, e-mail [communications@muscofee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscofee.k12.ga.us) or contact Jordan High School at (706)748-2819.

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JORDAN VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
3200 HOWARD AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31904-7897  
TELEPHONE (706) 748-2819  
FAX (706) 748-2829

Alton White  
Principal

Jane Anthony  
Assistant Principal

Michael Davis  
Assistant Principal

Amy Wohler  
SIG Administrator

Jana Rudd  
Guidance Director

September 9, 2015

Dr. David Lewis  
Superintendent, MCSD  
2960 Macon Rd.  
Columbus, GA 31906

Dr. Lewis:

I am writing to request your, and the school board's consideration on naming two areas of JVHS in honor/memory of two great educators from our district with ties to Jordan. First, we would like to name the media center after Dr. Roland B. Daniel. Dr. Daniel was the Superintendent of Columbus schools when JVHS was built and instrumental in the vision of a comprehensive high school. The result was Jordan Vocational High School, the first comprehensive high school in the nation. With the sell and demolition of Daniel Middle School, it is only fitting that his legacy be remembered at JVHS.

I would also ask that you and the school board consider naming the auditorium in honor/memory of Robert M. Barr, band director at JVHS from 1946-1963. Under his direction, the Jordan Vocational High School Band was nationally known and won many state and national titles, including the American Legion Award as the nation's outstanding high school band in 1952. Mr. Barr was also a conductor for the Columbus Symphony and founded the Columbus Youth Symphony. I cannot think of a more deserving honor than to name the hall his bands performed in so often in his honor at the conclusion of the current renovation project.

I have discussed both of these proposals with the Jordan Vocational High School Alumni Association and both have their complete support.

Alton White  
Principal  
Jordan Vocational High School

*Muscogee County School District and Jordan Vocational High School are committed to providing educational experiences that will enable each student to become a lifelong learner, enter the workforce with necessary skills and achieve academic and personal potential.*

Dr. Roland B. Daniel  
1909-1937

Dr. Roland Bird Daniel, served 28 years as Superintendent of the Columbus Public Schools, and is buried in Riverdale Cemetery with his two wives and two of his four children. An illustrious educator known for his progressive ideas, Dr. Daniel was educated at Emory University and the University of Chicago. He served as superintendent of schools in Coleman, Blakely, Montezuma and Valdosta prior to coming to Columbus in 1909 at an annual salary of \$2,250. He taught during summers at the University of Georgia, the University of Tennessee and Emory. The latter awarded him an honorary Phi Beta Kappa membership.

When he came to Columbus, there were fewer than a dozen buildings in the system. Many were churches or public buildings converted for use as classrooms. During his administration 10 schools were built, many of them showing his delight in the Spanish architecture, which he observed during a national superintendents meeting in Southern California.

Long recognized as a pioneer in vocational education, a paper on industrial education in Columbus, written by Dr. Daniel, was published by the U.S. Government as an official bulletin. Perhaps the crowning achievement of his administration was the dedication in 1937 of a state-of-the-art industrial school, Jordan Vocational High School.

He was born in Liberty County, Georgia, in 1866, a descendent of Puritan stock in St. John's Parish. His first wife, the mother of his children, was Eva Turk, and several years after her death in 1930 he married Epsie Campbell, head of the Home Economics Department of the University of Georgia.

In 1954 members of the Sophomore Hi-Y at Columbus High School named their chapter for Dr. Daniel and met once a year for two years at his home on Hilton Avenue. The Board of Education voted in 1957, after his death at age 88, to rename 45<sup>th</sup> Street School in his honor. Though the school has changed roles during the years, it still bears the name Daniel.

He was a consummate educator, a dedicated steward and trustee of St. Paul Methodist Church, a community leader and a giant in his profession. This tall, white haired aristocratic gentleman's influence on education in Columbus is felt even today.

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