

**Secondary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year**

**John Benjamin**

**Ramsey IB High School, Birmingham City Schools**

John Benjamin received his master's degree from the University of West Alabama in Educational Leadership. He believes in quality academic programs that fosters learning and encourages students to be physically active promoting healthy eating and participating in after school activities. He also believes it is vital for his district to offer quality professional development for all physical education teachers in Birmingham. His program is focused on meeting all standards and encourages a well-rounded active lifestyle so their students can apply intellectual, social, mental, and emotional growth. He strives to serve as a positive role model exemplifying health and fitness activities by modeling a healthy lifestyle and demonstrating sportsmanship while coaching and accepting all students' physical ability with respect. A colleague speaks highly of Coach Benjamin saying "John has proven to be a student advocate for students inside and outside of the classroom. *Daily, he promotes good character, health related fitness, intelligence, lifestyle development, and skilled play. As a result of his leadership, all physical education students have an opportunity to experience a comprehensive and diverse physical education and health program*".