

# The Shadrix Times

Week of Oct. 29, 2018

A newsletter for [Mrs. Shadrix's](#) Media Arts/Broadcast Journalism classes



Photo by Donald Clayton/MBJH

**Jermelle “Jeh Jeh” Pruitt, morning anchor and reporter for WBRC Fox6 in Birmingham, visited the second period Media Arts/Broadcast Journalism class on September 5, 2018. Pruitt talked to the class about his job and duties as a reporter.**

## Jeh Jeh Pruitt visits MBJH Broadcast Journalism class

**BY KATHRYN DYKES**

MBJH Spartan News

On September 5, Jermelle “Jeh Jeh” Pruitt visited MBJH and shared his journey from choir student and football player to news reporter and prisonor re-entry advocate. “Nothing is easy, but it is worth it,” Pruitt told the Broadcast Journalism second period class, as he shared how he became a news reporter.

It was on a choir field trip to a water park in the 10th grade at Oxford High School that his teacher planted a seed about his future career. Playing around and talking into a video camera, his teacher told him that he could do it as a profession.

While at Oxford High School, he played football and led the 1988 team to the first state championship, followed by a second one in 1989. After graduating high school in 1990, he attended Jacksonville State University and played football. It was during his college years that he donated a kidney to his mother, saving her life but ending his football career. He graduated with a B.A. in Communications and

his attention was focused on his broadcasting career.

Pruitt works for WBRC Fox 6 as a morning anchor and reporter. But, his initial start in TV was far from Alabama in Midland, Texas. At first, he was so nervous to be on air that he read off a paper in front of him, instead of talking and being personable. At one point, he almost quit because he hadn’t prepared for an interview and when the artist didn’t show up for the live interview, he had nothing to talk about. After the incident, he went back to the studio and quit. The producer would not accept his resignation and encouraged him to be himself on camera, which is what he did.

Giving up is not something Pruitt does in life. In June 1997, his 19-year-old brother, Dannon, was killed by a friend of Pruitt’s. Three years later, Pruitt and his wife, Kerri, started the non-profit Birmingham-based Dannon Project to assist those with addictions on the road to recovery, unemployed, underemployed, at-risk youth and adults, both male and female, and specifically non-violent offenders

reentering society.

“Mr. Pruitt is a kind, inspiring, welcoming, and bright person,” said Mary Chandler Robinett. “He gives back to the community and is great at his job. I’m very thankful for him coming to speak to our class.”



Photo by Theresa Shadrix/MBJH

**Mr. Clayton, Jeh Jeh Pruitt, and Mrs. Gibbons.**



Photo by Donald Clayton/MBJH

**Mrs. Shadrix and Pruitt are both graduates of Oxford High School in Oxford, AL. and have known each other for over 30 years.**