

Superintendent's Report - Notes



Superintendent's Report

October 2025

1. [September Media Report](#)
2. Fall break has concluded on Monday. Extended contract staff had various PD events and High School Seniors attended UCA.
3. Many of our schools celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with celebrations and family nights.
4. The first nine weeks ended on October 2. We had a great turnout for Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 9th.
5. Men of Troy will have a tailgate party on October 25th from 9-4pm on the football field
6. The 7-9th grease volleyball has finished up their season with the 9th grade finishing runner-up. The senior high volleyball team will travel to Marion for the state tournament.
7. Pumpkin Light Night will be October 29th from 4-6pm at Joe Reese Stadium
8. HSWCHS was recognised as beating the odds by U of A OEP for overall growth and ELA growth.

September 2025

9. [August Media Report](#)
10. We had our first break of the school year. There were lots of activities going on and PD. We had extended day care available during the break. We served an average of 68 students in grades Pre-K through 6th. HSU provided three interns leading physical education, art activities, and lesson support.
11. Lake Hamilton Staff toured our new High School.
12. During our Labor Day Break, administrators and staff participated in Tier II training and worked with the Bailey Group.
13. All elementary campuses hosted Grandparent events.
14. I hosted superintendents from Hope School District and Magnolia School District to share ideas and show off what Hot Springs is doing in all aspects of school.
15. I attended the Dawson Coop Board meeting in Arkadelphia where we heard updates on facilities, 3rd grade retention, and various other topics.
16. Scouting America has hosted several events on our campus to recruit new scouts.

August 2025

17. [July Media Report](#)
18. School started on July 24th. It has been a wonderful kick-off, and students and staff are working diligently to ensure we have a great culture of teaching and learning.
19. Currently surveying staff and parents about our calendar with a full short summer.

20. We had several student and staff volunteers at the Community Resource Fair held at the Farmer's Market. The Trojan Read Book bus was also present.
21. Fridays are Trojans Fan Fridays - On Fridays, we wear Black and Gold to show our Trojan Pride!
22. We are all moved in and functioning in the new high school. Open house is tonight from 5 pm-7 pm
23. HSSD Season Athletic Passes are on sale now for students, adults, and families!
24. We had six graduates earn the prestigious IB Diploma: Davin Barragan, Jady Daniels, Zaria Grant, Henry Simmons, Jennifer Villatoro, and Trailyn Molden.
25. Extracurricular activities have begun! Our Trojan Volleyball teams held a black and gold scrimmage last week with a packed house supporting them. Our junior high football team played Lake Hamilton last night, while our varsity football team plays Lake Hamilton tonight at 7 pm. The 9th, JV, and Varsity Volleyball teams play Perryville tonight at home.
26. We have had a lot of classroom walkthroughs in the past few weeks. We are committed to quality time in the classroom and identifying areas for improvement and support.

July 2025

1. June Media Report
2. Elementary Summer School Camps were a huge success. Students had opportunities to participate in a variety of fun learning camps. They were exposed to reading, writing, math, and the arts through engaging activities.
3. Park hosted a Meet and Greet for their new Principal, Mrs. Burton and OSTEM will host a Meet and Greet for their new principal, Mrs. Anderson tomorrow.
4. Our Beta Club students went to Orlando and were excellent representatives of our district.
5. Pee Wee Wrestling camp was earlier this month. Students grades K-6 were invited to attend.
6. New Staff Onboarding was held on Monday and we had 39 new staff members attend.
7. Teachers come back on Monday and students on Thursday. We are ready to welcome everyone back!

June 2025

1. [May Media Report](#)
2. School ended very successfully on June 6th.
3. Celebrated our staff last week and recognized them for years of service, retirement and special awards before sending them home for a much deserved break.
4. First Baptist Church served lunch for the entire staff last Monday.
5. Trojan Eats food truck started their routes on Monday and will run through July 17th.
6. Officer Graves was named as the Hot Springs School District Police Department Employee of the Year.
7. Mrs. Heidi Faught-Strong was named Hot Springs School District Teacher of the Year.
8. Mrs. Cherri Mertz received the Spirit of Troy award.
9. On Saturday, June 6th we had the last open house for the old building. It was very well attended.

10. Abatement at the old high school building is now complete. It is ready for demolition on June 23rd and the utilities will begin being shut off tomorrow.
11. We have lots of camps and summer school activities going on this summer.
12. Dance Troupe leaves soon for Austria, Germany.
13. Beta Club will leave soon for Orlando, FL.
14. GT Students attended Awesome Arkansas at ASMSA and Big on Little Rock at Little Rock Central High School.
15. High School celebrated the Top 25% of students from the graduating classes of 2026 and 2027.
16. OSTEM had a Career Day event that allowed students to learn about different careers.
17. 6th grade graduation ceremonies were held for each elementary school.
18. Park 6th graders hosted their IB PYP Exhibition.
19. IB Biology and IB Chemistry students took action at Lake Ouachita and participated in water testing activities.
20. We had several students attend Boys and Girls State this year. Many of them were elected to offices and some won scholarships.
21. Destination Imagination teams went to Globals in Kansas City, MO. They competed well and did an excellent job.
22. Coach Larry McDaniel was selected as Coach of the Year for the Arkansas Special Olympics.

May 2025

1. [April Media Report](#)
2. Soccer played in the state tournament hosted here. They did a great job representing our district in the tournament.
3. Teacher of the Year Luncheon was held on Monday.
4. Principal Meet and Greet for Mrs. Brandon at the Junior Academy.
5. EAST Night Out was held last week. Students showcased their projects that they have worked on over the past school year.
6. MYP/GT Expo was also held last week. Students showcased their personal projects and all the exciting learning opportunities they participated in over the past school year.
7. Heart for Art Night allowed students to share their talent in all the areas of the arts.
8. Men of Troy celebrated a year of service to the students of the Hot Springs School District.
9. Lunch with Langston students. They gave us great feedback on all the things they love about being a Langston Leader.
10. National Beta District of Distinction honor was bestowed on our Beta program.
11. Battle Royale was a huge success.
12. Trojan track team participated in the state track meet and represented us well.
13. Celebrated teacher appreciation week.
14. 248 students graduated from HSWCHS on May 8th. Graduation walks were so much fun.
15. Senior night for spring sports.
16. Jadyn Daniels and John Sullivan were recognized in the Broadway Bound competition.
17. 18 students received the Seal of Biliteracy.
18. Celebrated School Lunch Hero Day, School Nurse Day, and School Principal Day.

19. Lots of spring performances at all the schools.

April 2025

1. [March Media Report](#)
2. The National Special Olympics spent two days in our district as part of their "Storytelling in Stills" project. It was a wonderful experience for all involved and we look forward to seeing their finished product.
3. The annual EAST Convention took place March 18-20. OSTEM, HSJA, and HSWCHS EAST Programs represented HSSD well.
4. Our HSSD 7-12 Dance Program presented their Spring Dance Concert.
5. The Addams Family will be performed April 24-26 at the Joyce L Littleton Craft Auditorium.
6. Our Final 2025-2026 Trojans Love Reading event took place on April 11.
7. We had several student choreographers and a filmmaker win at the Arts Across Arkansas statewide competition. This program gives students the opportunity to create work, meet with a mentor to receive feedback, and then compete at a live event to connect with the other student artists. This year we had 8 of the 11 choreography finalists and the results are below! 1st Place- Kiara Davis with "Beauty in the Chaos", 2nd Place- Maddie Arnold with "Women's in Men's Fields", 3rd Place- Megan Burris with "Scenes of Asylum". John Sullivan also won 1st Place in the film category for his student written and directed film, "Tinted."
8. We held our first HSSD Job Fair on April 1 and had approximately 65 attendees.
9. The Garland County Reads hosted a Reading Galaxy Block Party on April 7th at the Garland County Library.
10. April 2nd was Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, April 4th was National School Librarian Appreciation Day, and the week of April 7th was National Assistant Principal Week.
11. Kindergarten Registration took place on April 11th, following Kindergarten Meet & Greets held at each elementary school.
12. We have received a Joint Use Agreement Grant in the amount of \$16,276.50 for the Community Outdoor Classroom to be created on the Greenway Trail at Hollywood Park. We are working with the Friends of the Park, the City of Hot Springs, all seven school districts in Garland County, and other community organizations.

March 2025

1. [February Media Report](#)
2. Our third quarter Trojans Love Reading event was held on February 28.
3. Demetri Burdick, a 7th grade student at HSJA, won the Garland County Spelling Bee on February 27. Caleb McCann (8th grade, HSJA) and Antwon Luker (5th grade, MVPA) tied for third/fourth place.
4. Spring sports are well underway. Track & field, baseball, softball, and soccer are all competing through May!
5. The District celebrated Read Across America Week the week of March 3rd with themed dress up days and books to read.

6. HSWCHS has been recognized for the second year in a row by the Office of Education Policy at the University of Arkansas for Beating the Odds Overall and in ELA. This honor is awarded to schools where students show high growth on the ATLAS exams, despite serving a high percentage of students who participate in free and reduced lunch. The award is based on the 2024 content growth score from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, measuring how much students improved from 2023 compared to peers with similar prior achievements.
7. We celebrated Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day on March 7.
8. Our Trojans Boys Basketball Team made it to the 2nd round of the state tournament! Thanks for a great season!
9. Seven HSSD Destination Imagination teams earned a spot at the Global Finals to be held in Kansas City, MO, in May. Teams represent HSWCHS, HSJA, LELA, OSTEM, and MVPA.
10. HSWCHS Choir earned a Superior I State Qualifier award at the Region 3 Choral Performance Assessment.
11. The Hot Springs Dance Troupe spent the day at the Arkansas State Capitol for the statewide Arts Advocacy Day on March 11. Several were interviewed and featured on Channel 7.
12. The HSSD GT program was honored with an Office of Education Policy Best Growth Scores in 2024 award. Our GT students showed the most growth compared to other programs with the same number of students across the state.
13. Our HSSD EAST and Prevention Program students spent a day at the Arkansas State Capitol on March 11, as well. Our program presented a compelling presentation as part of Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Together, we initiated a significant environmental change to raise awareness.
14. HSSD will hold its first Job Fair on Tuesday, April 1, from 4:30-6:30 at the District Administration Building.
15. The HSWCHS Trojan Wind Symphony received Superior ratings for stage performance and sight reading at the Region 2 Concert Assessment.
16. Spring Break will take place beginning next week: March 24 - April 1!
17. Our Hot Springs Thespian Junior Troupe 78 members attended the Arkansas Blue Junior Festival and received several awards, both superior and excellent rankings.

February 2025

1. [January Media Report](#)
2. We had 6 HSWCHS students make the All-Region Band, with 3 qualifying for All-State: Amelia Wesley, Flute 1st band 6th chair; Marshall Ware, Trumpet 1st band 11th chair; and Braden Fehnel, Trumpet 1st band 12th chair. Congratulations to all.
3. All 6 of our HSSD schools had incredible performances at the State Beta Convention. Each school brought home numerous awards and qualified students for the National Convention this June in Orlando, Florida!
4. We celebrated the 100th Day of School on January 28th.
5. Malaysia Powell will represent HSWCHS in the United Way's "We've Got Talent" talent show. She won our HSWCHS Talent Show. John Sullivan placed 2nd and Chloe Powell & Kinsley Hammock placed 3rd.

6. We celebrated National School Counseling Week and Beta Sponsor Week from February 3 - 7.
7. We held our first Read with Troy Halftime Storytime event on Tuesday, February 4. Children 10 and under joined us in the Hospitality Room for a read aloud. They left with a bookmark, book, and a bag of popcorn! We had a great turnout and continued the events on February 11 and 18.
8. We had several HSWCHS Troupe 78 Thespians who were awarded Superior or Excellent Thespy Awards. Our Troupe went to the AR Thespian Festival in Russellville February 13-15.
9. Three student athletes signed to further their football careers on National Signing Day: TJ Ellis signed with Lyon College, Kyin Jamerson signed with Northwestern Missouri State University, and Jeremiah Addaway signed with UCA.
10. Our Trojan Boys Bowling team qualified for the State Tournament in Cabot. Alleah Larimore from the Lady Trojans Bowling team earned All-Conference and secured a spot at State.
11. Our 9th grade Trojans and Lady Trojans won the 5A South Conference Championships in basketball! Congratulations to Coach White, Coach Morrow, Coach Burnett, and Coach Green and all of our players. Our 6th grade girls won the 5A PeeWee Championship in basketball, too. In addition, our HSWCHS Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team made it to the Semifinals in Conway on February 25th, where they played hard but lost.
12. We had a great Parent/Teacher Conference night on February 13th.
13. Winter Break began Friday, February 14, and ended Friday, February 21. Everyone returned yesterday!
14. Destination Imagination Teams from Langston, Oaklawn, Main Street, Junior Academy, and High School competed at the regional competition and brought home several 1st & 2nd place finishes!
15. We hosted our winter sports Senior Night on Friday, February 21. Honored were our seniors participating in bowling, wrestling, and basketball.
16. All of our schools have celebrated Black History Month with amazing programs and performances!

January 2025

1. [December Media Report](#)
2. St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church once again delivered wrapped toy bundles, clothes, and food boxes for HSSD families to help make Christmas special for every child.
3. Angela Millard, OSTEM Counselor, was named the ARSCA Southwest Elementary Counselor of the Year! We are so proud of her.
4. We enjoyed a wonderful holiday break throughout the district. The second semester started on January 8!
5. School Based Mental Health Medicaid Billing for the first semester totaled \$99,550.45.
6. Substitute services with Kelly Education cost \$165,088.28 for the 1st semester. We have budgeted \$425,000.00 for the year. Our need is down significantly so far this year.
7. All schools held spelling bees and the top 3 from each will represent HSSD at the GC Spelling Bee held in February.

8. The makeup days for the inclement weather school closings will be on Wednesday, April 2, Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4.
9. CELEBRATION - we received official notification from DESE that we have been released from Coordinated Literacy Support! "Based on the new ATLAS assessment results and cut scores, your school district will no longer be required to have an Act 1082 check-ins with the district support unit. Per Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-2913, DESE provides Coordinated Support to districts where 40-49% of students score in the lowest performance level on the prior year's state summative reading assessment. Your district's scores have surpassed this threshold; this signifies that the required quarterly scheduled meetings will no longer be necessary."
10. Miss Trojan Pageant queens were announced: our Young Miss Trojan is Elizabeth Ford of Hot Springs Junior Academy, our Junior Miss Trojan is Mariyel Walker, also from Hot Springs Junior Academy, & our MISS TROJAN is Alise Adams, from Hot Springs World Class High School. Congratulations to all!
11. Our Trojan Varsity Football Team received the Award of Excellence for an Ejection Free Season for Football 2024! From AAA: Kudos to a job well done by these football schools who competed the right way and did not have a player ejected in the 2024 season (and completed the form)! There were 65 schools who received this recognition.

December 2024

1. [November Media Report](#)
2. Our Trojan T-Steppers Dance Team competed at the State Competition, scored high, and came home with the Judge's Choice Award for School Pride!
3. The HSWCHS Art Club helped the Arlington Hotel decorate gingerbread cookies for the annual gingerbread house.
4. HSWCHS had several JAG students win at the state competition. They will move on to Nationals. We look forward to highlighting them at a Board Meeting in the near future.
5. Our 9th grade Boys Basketball Team WON the 4th Annual Hot Springs Basketball Tournament!
6. We have had so many wonderful Winter Fine Arts performances at every one of our schools. Our students are incredibly talented!
7. Our GT & MYP Departments hosted a wonderful family night on December 3. Students shared class projects from the first semester.
8. Our Hot Springs School District Unified Bowling teams are on a roll! After advancing to STATE at Regionals on Nov. 19th, our amazing bowlers from Langston Elementary Leadership Academy, Main Street Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Hot Springs Junior Academy, and Hot Springs World Class High School hit the lanes at Professor Bowl in Little Rock on Dec. 4th. Our students bowled their hearts out, earning *2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th place medals.
9. Last month I mentioned our Questbridge Finalists. Exciting news - we had two students match with Questbridge! Zaria Grant will go to Columbia University and Tyrell George will go to the University of Colorado.

10. We had several HSJA Band members make Junior High All-Region Bands. Congratulations to Alyssa Ogden, Amelia Grisham, Ramiro Gorostieta, Riley Henson, Liam Evans, and Tristen Huie.

November 2024

1. [October Media Report](#)
2. Beta Students from all 6 of our schools attended the Beta Leadership Summit in October and had students qualify to compete at the National Beta Convention in Orlando, Florida in June 2025.
3. October was National Principals Month! We are so grateful for the leadership of Kiley Simms - HSWCHS, William Brazle - HSJA, Dr. Kyria Wilson - LELA, Kristen Gordon - MVPA, Utana Newborn - OSTEM, & Kristal Brandon - Park!
4. We had a great 10th Annual Pumpkin Light Night event on Monday, October 28.
5. Our Special Olympics Traditional team and Unified team for the Junior Academy participated in Flag Football at War Memorial Stadium on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The traditional team received gold medals and the Unified team received silver medals. Congratulations to all the participants!!! We are very proud of you!!
6. Congratulations to our Junior High football team for earning the 5A conference championship. In addition, our 6th grade Trojans won the Pee Wee Conference Championship and played in a Super Bowl. Our 5th grade Trojans won their Pee Wee Conference Championship and lost in the JV Pee Wee Super Bowl.
7. Our Fall Sports Seniors were recognized for Senior Night on Friday, November 1. We had 51 recognized!
8. 6 HSWCHS students were named Questbridge Finalists. These students will be considered for early admission and a full four-year Match Scholarship at the schools they ranked on their Questbridge application. The finalists are Tyrell George, Ari Johnson, Kaeleona Villa, Zaria Grant, Henry Simmons, and Jennifer Villatoro.
9. The Trojan Cross Country team finished out the season at the 5A State Championship on Thursday, November 7.
10. OSTEM held their Fall STEM Night on November 7.
11. Our second Trojan Loves Reading event went well on Friday, November 8.
12. Our Trojan Football team concluded their regular season on Friday, November 8. It was a fun year!
13. HSWCHS students Kayden Allen and Jennifer Villatoro were recognized by the Elks Lodge as top students in November.
14. Our HSSD Beta Clubs held our 2nd Blood Drive on November 12.
15. The Trojan Band competed at the State Competition at War Memorial Stadium on Tuesday, November 12.
16. HSWCHS Teacher Chad Hall and Langston Teacher Bethany Rice received \$500 checks through the Arvest Bank's seventh annual "We Love Teachers" campaign.

October 2024

1. [August/September Media Report](#)

2. HSWCHS senior Tyrell George was named one of 50 "Distinguished Computer Science Students" in Arkansas!
3. HSWCHS senior KD Allen was featured in 501 Life magazine as a member of the 2024 501 Life Football Team. He excels both on the field and in the classroom. We are so proud!
4. Many of our schools celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with celebrations and family nights.
5. The first nine weeks ended on October 3. We had a great turnout for Parent/Teacher Conferences that afternoon and evening.
6. We had our second break, Fall Break, October 4-11. We had approximately 60 students participate in our Extended Day Care offering.
7. National Coaches Day was October 6!
8. Men of Troy and First Security Bank are sponsoring a Football Party on November 2nd from 10-2 at our Trojan Stadium. We will be showing the AR Razorbacks vs Ole Miss on the video board and there will be concessions, games, and blowups.
9. HSWCHS Choir had several students make the 2024 All Region Choir: Soprano 1 SSAA - Mary Lawyer (29th chair) & Mya Chandler (35th); Bass 2 TTBB - Ronald Gordan (24th); Bass 1 SATB & All State Eligible - James Nehus (7th).
10. Our last production in the Mackey Theatre, Harvey (which was also the first production in 1968-69), will take place October 24-26. Tickets are on sale now.
11. Our Trojan Band has done very well at several competitions recently.
12. It's Homecoming Week! We had a great Homecoming Parade on Monday. We have hosted and will continue to host several Class Reunion tours. We look forward to our Homecoming Ceremonies on Friday.

September 2024

1. We have had some great press coverage over the past month. Most notable was highlighting our Coffee Talk series held at our Welcome Center.
2. We had our first break of the new school calendar, Labor Day Break Week, the first week of September. We had approximately 50 students attend our Extended Day Care or Enrichment Camp offerings. We served 262 breakfasts, 427 lunches, and 165 snacks! Mid-America Science Museum and the Garland County Library partnered to provide programs for our students, as well.
3. Our Miss Trojan princesses, accompanied by Mrs. Wilda Hughley, went to the New York Fashion Week September 5-9.
4. Several senior Trojan football players visited the Arkansas State Capitol the week of September 2nd to help raise awareness for Prostate Cancer.
5. Our first Trojans Love Reading event took place on Friday, September 13. Our next event will be November 8.
6. The Senior Beta Club at HSWCHS hosted a Blood Drive on September 13.
7. THV11's Hometown Fridays came and highlighted HSSD on September 13 from 6:00-7:00 am. Trojan Pride was on full display!

8. We have received two donations in the past month: the Oaklawn Foundation School Wellness Fund was given to us through the United Way of the Ouachitas and Burlington gave OSTEM an AdoptaClassroom.org check in the amount of \$5,000 in conjunction with the opening of their first store in Hot Springs.
9. Today is National IT Professionals Day!

August 2024

1. We had a great start to the 2024-2025 school year! We have had lots of press regarding our new nontraditional school calendar!
2. We had several groups volunteer for United Way's Stuff the Bus on Saturday, August 3, at Walmart on Central.
3. Fridays are Trojans Fan Fridays - On Fridays, we wear Black and Gold to show our Trojan Pride!
4. We had our first break week registration for September childcare. We have approximately 200 students signed up for daycare or enrichment camps.
5. We held our last official building tours for the current HSWCHS on Saturday, July 27. We had over 150 alumni and friends visit.
6. Trojan Graduate Ali Springsteen was selected as the Joe Reese Athletic Scholarship Award winner for the class of 2024.
7. Our HSSD PD launched the Men of Troy, a volunteer opportunity to mentor students in the HSSD. They held their first meeting on August 13th.
8. Our Hot Springs Dance Troupe performed in the Pocket Community Theatre's Mary Poppins. We, also, had several students and staff as part of the cast! Our Trojans are amazingly talented!
9. The Trojans Read Book Bus provided books to attendees at the annual Hot Springs Community Resource Fair on August 10th.
10. HSSD Season Athletic Passes are on sale now for students, adults, and families!
11. We had six graduates earn the prestigious IB Diploma: Sarahi Medrano, Allison Parker, Mimi Reagler, Danielle Rivera, Ali Springsteen, and Bianca Thomas.
12. Extracurricular activities have begun! Our Trojan Volleyball teams held a black and gold scrimmage last week with a packed house supporting them. Our junior high volleyball and football teams played Lake Hamilton last night, while our varsity football team had a meet and greet. Tonight we travel across the county as our varsity football team takes on Lake Hamilton...the theme is White Out, so we encourage everyone to wear white to the game!

July 2024

1. All six schools were represented at the National Beta Convention in Savannah, Georgia, in June.
2. HSWCHS NJROTC Cadets attended the 2024 Area 13 NJROTC Leadership Camp in Missouri in June.
3. Summer School, Summer Enrichment, & our Summer Feeding programs all saw great success! Our summer feeding numbers were as follows: breakfast - 967, lunch - 2703, and snacks - 2732.

4. The Sentinel-Record Readers' Choice Awards were announced on June 30. HSSD was recognized as a finalist for Best School District, Kristen Gordon WON Best Principal, and Allicyn Willix WON Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to these winners in our district!
5. Happy New School Year -- the 2024-2025 school year has officially begun!
6. HSWCHS was represented by Thespian Troupe 78 at the International Thespian Festival in Bloomington, IN. Danielle Rivera received a Superior rating and Allison Parker, Jamie Bryant, and John Sullivan received Excellent ratings. Nico Martinez and Jadyn Daniels were cast in a staged reading of "Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood".
7. HSWCHS has been hosting Lunch & Learns for their parents over the last several Wednesdays.
8. We had a wonderful HSSD Administrator's Retreat on July 9. Our theme this year is Elevating TROJAN Excellence: Building Blocks of Professionalism - One Piece at a Time.
9. Our New Hire Onboarding took place on July 10th. We have 38 new staff members joining us this year.
10. I was honored to give a welcome at the Langston Reunion event on July 11th at The Hotel Hot Springs. Our history runs deep!
11. We are proud to announce OSTEM has been named a Promising Practices School! This is a new level developed - a tier for schools that are well on their way to becoming a model school but still need to either cement some of their practices or provide additional evidence of student improvement.
12. Trojan Kinder Camp is taking place this week, as well as Student Draft Days (registration)!
13. Our last scheduled Open House for the current HSWCHS building is set for Saturday, July 27, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

June 2024

1. Congratulations to Miranda Mabry from Langston for being named the District Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Jan Sligh for receiving the Spirit of Troy Award. Another round of congratulations to our Employees of the Year for each building: HSWCHS - Larry McDaniel, HSJA - Audrey Guy, Park - Libby Sepe, OSTEM - Kyesha Barnes, MVPA - Andrea Roberts, LELA - Cynthia Weddington, Maintenance & Transportation - Billy McNeely, and District Office - Greg Walker!
2. We had several students earn their Guest Services Certification from the nationally recognized American Hotel and Lodging Association as part of their Year 1 Hospitality & Tourism pathway.
3. All six schools had students represent at the Destination Imagination Global Finals in Kansas City, MO, at the end of May.
4. We enjoyed celebrating all of our Classified Employees at our annual Classy Fiesta held on Tuesday, March 28.
5. Park's 2nd graders raised nearly \$500 for the City of Hot Springs Animal Services as part of their How We Organize Ourselves unit of inquiry. The students held a Market Day to raise the funds after creating their own goods while learning how economic systems influence the way people live. Way to go Park!

6. The school year officially ended on May 31! Summer enrichment camps, summer school, and summer feeding programs are all underway. Our Welcome Center is open daily to meet student and family needs, as well.

May 2024

1. Praylin Jones from HSWCHS signed to play basketball at NPC as a Nighthawk!
2. Michael Roach from HSWCHS won the Gold Medal in CNC Turning at the Arkansas SkillsUSA competition held at the HS Convention Center.
3. Tyrell George from HSWCHS won 1st place in the Cybersecurity tested event at the FBLA State Leadership Conference advancing to Nationals in Orlando. Tyrell, Breanna Neal, and Amaira Winters were recognized with a Business Achievement Award.
4. Beauty & the Beast was absolutely AMAZING! A big thank you to Mrs. Potts and our entire secondary fine arts team! Our students are so very talented and made us all proud!
5. I hosted the final Superintendent's Parent Council meeting on Saturday, April 27th. We had attendees representing all buildings present.
6. We had an amazing HSSD District Arts Night on April 30th where all of our fine arts programs and our EAST programs from across the district were on display.
7. Our Trojan Boys Soccer Team made it to the State Tournament!
8. We are a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools District award winner! All of our schools are National Showcase Schools!!!
9. Oaklawn STEM won the Trojan Battle Royale this year!!! Congratulations.
10. The 2nd Annual Trojan Fun Color Run took place on May 4th. A big thank you to everyone who turned out for the fun.
11. We hosted our final Trojans Love Reading event for this school year on May 6th. We are grateful to all of our community partners who came to read to our students.
12. Graduation went wonderfully as we graduated 237 students - 14 with High Honors and 40 with Honors!
13. Oaklawn STEM celebrated the end of their 3 year PLC Cohort 5 journey on Monday, May 13th.
14. We have celebrated lots of appreciation days...Teacher Appreciation Week was May 6-10. School Nurse Appreciation Day was May 8th. School Lunch Hero Day was May 3rd. National Interpreter Appreciation Day was May 1st, along with National School Principals' Day. School Bus Driver Appreciation Day was April 23rd.
15. Our 6th-12th grade band students had a wonderful spring concert performance!
16. Congratulations to our 2024 HSSD Teachers of the Year selected for each building: Angela Leshner (HSWCHS), Lia LaFollette (HSJA), Miranda Mabry (LELA), Allicyn Willix (MVPA), Kathryn McCoy (OSTEM), and Amanda Langston (Park). The District Teacher of the Year will be announced at our end of the year awards ceremony on Friday, May 31st.
17. Kindergarten and 6th Grade Graduations are all in full swing. The end of the school year is such a fun time!

April 2024

1. MVPA has been named a Model PLC at Work School for the second time!

2. The total solar eclipse was amazing to experience!
3. OSTEM first grader, Grace Block, was named the HSSD Star Reader by ARKidsRead.
4. Congratulations to Amy Bramlett-Turner for being named the first Arkansas Fine Arts Teacher of the Year.
5. We had an opportunity to celebrate Paraprofessionals and Library Media Specialists, as well as our Assistant Principals. So thankful for all they do.
6. Beauty and the Beast is coming...don't miss seeing it on April 25-27. Showtimes on Thursday at 6:00 pm, Friday are 9:30 am or 6:00 pm, Saturday's show is at 6:00 pm.
7. Langston's Cheyenne Ward has been accepted into the IMPACT Arkansas Fellowship program at the University of Arkansas. Upon finishing the program, she will earn her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.
8. Summer Enrichment Camp registration opened April 1 and will close on April 19.
9. Kindergarten Registration opened April 1.
10. I had an amazing time presenting my Guatemala mission trip experience to OSTEM's Spanish and Cooking clubs.
11. WoodmenLife - Hot Springs Chapter 6505 gave a generous donation to our Welcome Center.
12. We have had a little over 100 responses to our childcare survey. Of those responding, approximately 60% need childcare. Of those in need, about 36% were interested in our HSSD Extended Day Care option.
13. Our students have had several opportunities for learning experiences outside of the classroom over the last month. One highlighted in the news was The Great Gatsby scavenger hunt downtown by our 10th grade English students.

March 2024

1. Our Deseg case is under advisement of Judge Hickey. We are awaiting her ruling.
2. Our HS Dance Troupe shined on the national stage at the COSSBA conference at the end of February. They represented our district well and received 3 standing ovations.
3. PreK registration opened March 1. Kindergarten registration will open April 1. All elementary schools are hosting kindergarten roundups.
4. Spring sports are underway - enjoy cheering on softball, baseball, soccer, and track.
5. HSJA & HSWCHS Choir hosted Sing for Change, A Black History Concert at the end of February. Our students are so very talented.
6. Read Across America Week was last week, March 4-8. Thank you to our Library Media Specialists for planning a fun spirit week and for reading books that we shared online.
7. We administered the Writing ATLAS assessment to all students in grades 3-11 on March 5.
8. The HSSD 7-12 Dance Program presented Student Choreography Showcase VI: Poetry In Motion on March 7. We had dancers perform at the Wednesday Night Poetry event in our community and at the Arkansas Learning Through the Arts fundraiser.
9. HSWCHS student Abigail Hedrick represented HSSD in the United Way's "We've Got Talent" competition held at Mt. Pine School District on March 7. She finished in 3rd place and will receive a \$500 scholarship.

10. We had a terrific Trojans Love Reading event last Friday. We appreciate all of our community partners, parents, and students who volunteer to read at our elementary schools.
11. Our district Destination Imagination teams competed at the State Finals, which we hosted at HSJA last Saturday. Five of our teams have qualified for the Global Finals. Park, OSTEM, LELA, HSJA, and HSWCHS all had teams competing.

February 2024

1. We have 3 Trojan Wrestlers who will be competing this weekend in the State Championship at UALR. They are Dakota Devore, Riley Raymick, and Eli Eggleston.
2. Our Junior High Trojan Basketball team won the district conference championship! Congratulations to Coach White, Coach Morrow, and our JR Trojans!
3. HSWCHS's EAST Program has received the EAST Founder's Award!
4. Congratulations to our Better Chances ALE campus for being recognized for Highest Achievement in ELA. They were honored at the Alternative Education Leadership Day at the Capitol last week.
5. Our HSSD Special Olympics Unified Basketball team made it to the semi-finals last week. We had the privilege of hosting the semi's. Unfortunately, we lost to Pottsville. Congratulations on another successful year!
6. Our Thespian Troupe 78 received several recognitions at the 2024 Arkansas State Thespian Festival. Our students earned a total of \$54,000 in scholarship awards!
7. Our Hot Springs Dance Troupe competed alongside various cultural and classical dancers at Dancing into Dreamland and won 1st Place!
8. Congratulations to Melanie Holmes (ASMSA Senior), who competes as a Trojan Swim Team member. She placed at the 5A South Conference meet - 2nd overall women's 100 free and all conference and 4th overall women's 100 breaststroke (both were personal records).
9. We had 4 Trojans sign national letters of intent to play football at the next level. Congratulations to TJ Brogden - Henderson State University, Octavious Rhodes - Northwest Missouri State, Kendall Williams - Ouachita Baptist University, and Derrion Hawkins - Lyon College!
10. 8th grader Rayleigh Rauda won 1st place in the Elks Lodge Essay Contest. Her essay "What the Bill of Rights Means to Me" will now move on to the state competition.
11. National Counselors Week was the week of February 5th & SRO Appreciation Day was February 15th!
12. January 31st marked the 100th day of school.
13. Deseg Update - we have a hearing on Monday, February 26, at 2:00 pm.
14. Tonight is Winter Sports Senior Night!

January 2024

1. Everyone enjoyed the holiday break. It has been a great start to the second semester.
2. Our athletic teams competed well over the break and are back in the swing of games since our return.

3. The 2024 Miss Trojans were crowned on Saturday, January 13. Congratulations to Little Miss Trojan Graciela Kouetcha from Park, Young Miss Trojan Maya Hurtado from HSJA, Junior Miss Trojan Trayona McDaniel from HSWCHS, and Miss Trojan Adriana Matthews from HSWCHS.
4. All elementary schools and HSJA conducted spelling bees. The top 3 winners from each school competed at the Garland County Spelling Bee. We had students finish in 4th, 5th, and 6th place at the county bee.
5. We had two students featured at the Birth of an Artist event in our community - Alleah Larimore and Alex Navas.
6. Abigail Hedrick will be representing HSSD at the United Way's We've Got Talent competition on March 7 at Mt. Pine High School.
7. We had 5 students earn a chair in the All-Region Band.
8. Hot Springs World Class High School was awarded an AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science A. We were one of 225 schools to be recognized.
9. School Based Mental Health Medicaid Billing has been approved and reimbursements have started. We have received \$8,388.09 to date and have \$27,493.25 submitted awaiting payment approval and notification.
10. Our last day of school will now be Thursday, May 30, for our students due to the recent inclement weather and snow days utilized.
11. Students from all of our schools have been competing at the Arkansas State Beta Conventions this week. We have qualifiers for the National Beta Conventions from all of our schools!
12. We closed on the Tom Ellsworth Drive property this afternoon.

December 2023

1. We hosted our second Trojans Love Reading event yesterday.
2. All of our schools and fine arts groups have showcased our students and their talent at wonderful holiday programs at all buildings!
3. HSSD received \$1,500 for 2023 AP Exams as part of the AP Incentive Funds program. Schools receive \$50 per student score of three (3) or better. Funds must be utilized for the schools' Advanced Placement program.
4. We had two employees receive their National Board Certified Teacher certification: Prince Brandon from MVP and Jodi Delaney from LELA.
5. The following are employees who completed a graduate degree this semester: Dayna Crawford - Educational Specialist (OSTEM), Crystal Perry - Master's (OSTEM), Jessica Power - Master's (HSJA), Samuel Simmons - Master's (HSJA), Katie Williams - Master's (HSJA), and Melissa Bratton - Master's (District Office)
6. The 2022-2023 School Report Card has been released! Our HSWCHS graduation rate is 85.4%, up from 79.5% in 2021-2022! The state average was 89.0%, while the previous year was 88.2%...we are making great progress and closing gaps!
7. Our very own Hot Springs Dance Troupe has been selected to perform at the closing session of the upcoming national school board COSSBA Conference in Dallas.

8. First Semester is ending strong!

November 2023

1. Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences were well attended on October 19.
2. We hosted Flu Vaccination Clinics at all of our campuses October 24 - 26.
3. Ft. Smith School District came to see our Concealed Weapons Detection Systems in action on October 26.
4. Pumpkin Light Night was amazing on October 30 and Boo with a Badge was a hit in the HSJA parking lot on October 31.
5. Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood showcased our talented theatre students for shows on November 2nd and 4th.
6. Our varsity football team finished the season 8-2 overall, 4-2 in conference. They played Shiloh Christian in the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 10.
7. We are hosting Survival Spanish for Educator classes this fall and will host another round in the spring for our employees. Thank you to Crystal De La Paz, Park Spanish Teacher, and Melissa Bratton, District Support Specialist, for teaching us all.
8. Wonka is happening now at Main Street. You can catch a show tonight at 6:00 pm or on Thursday, November 16th, at 9:00 am or 6:00 pm.
9. Thanksgiving Break will take place next week, November 20-24.
10. [Construction Update](#) 11-8-23
11. Park was recognized through the Arkansas School Recognition Program for achieving in the top 6-10% Performance. Awards are based on student assessment results from the 2022-2023 school year and graduation rates from the 2021-2022 school year. They will receive \$19,800.
12. Governor Sanders & Secretary Oliva visited Langston on November 6.
13. Area 10 Special Olympics Bowling took place last week and students from all campuses saw success. Our Unified Teams competed well, too. We have several students and teams that will compete at the state tournament in December!
14. HSWCHS T-Steppers Dance Team competed at the State Competition on Saturday.

October 2023

1. The HSWCHS Band Placed 2nd (out of 10 bands) at the Beaver Dam Marching Invitational in Malvern on Tuesday, October 10. Two superior (1) ratings were received for the band and color guard and one excellent rating (2) for the percussion. In addition, on Saturday at the Kappa Kappa Psi Marching Invitational at UAM, the band received individual first-division ratings in Drum Major, Color Guard, and Percussion. The Band and Percussion scored high enough to be awarded "Best in Class" (first place). The band next performs tonight at the Region 2 Marching Contest at Lakeside High School.
2. HSWCHS was recognized by the Office for Education Policy at the University of Arkansas as a school that is Beating the Odds, because students demonstrated high growth on the ACT Aspire even though the school serves a high percentage of students who participate in Free and Reduced Lunch! HSWCHS received the following awards: High Math Growth (Central Region) and High ELA Growth (Central Region).

3. I have been selected for the first cohort of the AAEA Leaders of Literacy program. This will start in December and last one year.
4. We have lots of After School Programs happening.
5. Parent/Family Engagement Events continue happening across the district.
6. Channel 7 Road Trippin' visited us for Homecoming on Friday, October 6. They did a great job of highlighting our students and district!
7. Homecoming was amazing!
8. Miriam "Mimi" Reagler has been named as a Coca-Cola Scholars Semifinalist!

September 2023

1. We hosted a successful Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 6, sponsored by or HSWCHS Beta Club.
2. All of our fall athletic teams are competing and having great success! It's always a great day to be a Trojan!!!
3. Science of Reading Observations are taking place at all of our buildings by certified assessors.
4. We have a DESE Literacy Coach working at Langston weekly. We will have literacy coaching support at OSTEM & MVPA in the near future, as well. The focus is grades K-3.
5. United Way of the Ouachitas in conjunction with the Oaklawn Foundation presented a check on August 22 for our school wellness needs.
6. Our new Concealed Weapons Detection Systems have been highlighted through several media outlets over the last few months. Everything is running smoothly.
7. I am serving on the Garland County Broadband Committee as we strive to ensure access to broadband here in our community.
8. Dawson will be hosting School Board Training provided by APSRC on Monday, November 6th, and Monday, November 13th. Training will be available via Zoom.
9. All of our schools have been hosting family events and they all have been AMAZING!

August 2023

1. Teachers returned on August 7. We had a great week of professional learning!
2. Open House was a great success!
3. The 1st Day of School was amazing!!!
4. October 17 will be our annual financial board training with Ray Beardsley following our monthly board meeting.

July 2023

1. We held our annual HSSD Administrator's and Guiding Coalition Retreat on July 6-8.
2. The 2023-2024 school year has officially begun.
3. Danielle Rivera won a Thespy Award at the International Thespian Festival last month for her musicalists of Screw-Loose from Cry-Baby.
4. OSTEM was selected to participate in the Zero Barriers in STEM Education: Accessibility and Inclusion Program that will kick off with a Summit between Tuesday, July 25 - 27, 2023.

June 2023

1. HSSD was selected as one of six school districts to be awarded the AAPT School Bus Safety Award. The award is based on the following criteria: quality of the school bus inspection, quality of the school bus maintenance records, cleanliness of the school bus fleet, and quality of the preventive maintenance program.
2. Summer school has begun at all elementary schools.
3. Summer enrichment is going strong!
4. HSTI was a success!
5. The HSWCHS construction project is well underway. The new drive to enter the site is top priority.
6. Students are currently attending and competing at the International Thespian Festival in Bloomington, IN, and at the National Beta Convention in Louisville, KY.
7. Dr. Echols has been selected to participate in the Teaching and Learning - Accountability LEARNS Act Workgroup.

May 2023

1. We have the opportunity to receive an additional year of support with the Leading PLCs Districtwide Cohort. We will have four onsite coaching days with our district leadership team.
2. **We graduated our largest class in the last 10+ years, with 246 graduates. AND ... Our Class of 2023 received (collectively) \$16,750,000 in scholarships!**
3. The Trojan Boys Soccer Team made it to the Semi Final Round in the State Soccer Tournament!
4. "Legally Blonde, the Musical," was an unbelievable production from our students at Hot Springs Junior Academy and Hot Springs World Class High School! They brought Broadway right here to Hot Springs, and drew crowds from across the region.
5. We had an outstanding District Arts Night in May, which celebrated students from all schools by way of an artwork showcase and student performances from HSSD Choirs, Dancers, the Hot Springs Dance Troupe, and Cast Members from "Legally Blonde, the Musical."
6. Trojan Choir Students in grades 7-12 from Hot Springs Junior Academy and Hot Springs World Class High School provided an outstanding performance in "A Michael Jackson Revue" earlier this week! Their vocal talent brought joy and inspiration to crowds of students and families with these timeless songs.
7. Oaklawn STEM Magnet School hosted another excellent STEM Day event last week. These events are a wonderful example of how our educators are masters at bringing together learning AND fun, for our students and families.
8. Staff and 6th graders from Langston Elementary Leadership Academy begin their 2nd annual Washington D.C. Trip in the wee hours of the morning, tomorrow. Everyone send good energy to them as they create another life-changing experience for these kids as they tour the historic and cultural sites of D.C. This is such a tremendous effort to organize and undertake, thank you Langston for making this possible!

9. We had another hugely successful Trojan Battle Royale event, which is a track and field event for our 5th and 6th graders from all four elementary schools! Our Coaches, Administrators, and Teachers/Coordinators from all schools put together this lineup of activities, allowing students to compete and celebrate their peers together at Joe Reese Stadium and our Trojan Baseball Fields.
10. The first student performance this morning of "Shrek The Musical, Jr." at Main Street Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School was outstanding! You'll be singing and dancing with them, please don't miss it. They are performing again tonight, and then again at 9:00 and 6:00 on Thursday, 5/18.

April 2023

1. Alisiyah Johnson, a student at HSWCHS, has been nationally recognized for her excellence in computing...she is an Affiliate Winner for the 2023 Award for Aspirations in Computing.
2. Sloane Nutt has been named a semifinalist in the National Beta Scholarship Program. As a semifinalist, she has placed among the top 100 of over 3,100 applicants.
3. Out of the 8 student applications to Arkansas Governor's School that our students submitted, 7 of our students were selected!
4. 17 students received their Seal of Biliteracy - 16 in Spanish and 1 in Arabic.
5. 12 seniors were honored in the Top 5% of students in Garland County at the Chamber's Academic Excellence Award Banquet last week.
6. Park's 4th and 5th grade Quiz Bowl Teams won 2nd place in a tournament at Dawson.
7. Coach Burnett received the Sporty Carpenter Award from HSU and Coach Neal was inducted into the White Hall School District Sports Hall of Fame!
8. We have had successful dance recitals at HSWCHS, HSJA, and MVPA over the last few weeks.
9. Our 10th grade MYP students presented their Personal Projects.
10. Our last Trojans Love Reading event on April 14 was a great success! We look forward to continuing this tradition into the next year and beyond.
11. Ms. Chavez was named the AAIM Library Media Specialist of the Year!!!
12. Wilda Hughley was KARK's Remarkable Woman during their Remarkable Women Campaign.
13. Danielle Rivera won 1st place at the Arkansas Young Playwright's Competition with her play, What If, Detective?
14. The Gateway Community Association brought Mr. Bob Kendrick, President and CEO of the National League Baseball Museum, to speak to our Trojan student athletes at the end of the last month!

March 2023

1. Update from the Career Exploration Fair at HSWCHS
2. D - Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort notified Ms. Davis that 77 of our students signed up to apply for jobs at the fair (held on Tuesday, Feb. 21) and 3 had been officially hired for seasonal positions on Thursday, Feb. 23.
3. I gave a tour to the Hot Springs Board of Realtors board of directors on Thursday, March 9.
4. Our Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team won the State Championship on Friday, March 10!

5. Aspen Ham and Katie Williams from HSJA were highlighted by the Pineapple website and app builder for teaching next generation app creators.
6. We had another successful Trojans Love Reading event on Friday, March 3.
7. OSTEM had a successful Model STEM School site visit...we are very hopeful for that designation.
8. Our HSWCHS Boys Basketball Team made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament.
9. Spring sports have started!!! Enjoy catching a softball, baseball, or soccer game or a track meet in the near future.
10. Summer Enrichment Camps are all posted online and a registration day will be held on March 29.

February 2023

1. HSSD has been selected by the Arkansas Governor's Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education to receive the Act 56 Award of \$3,000 for an Outstanding Gifted Program in districts of more than 3,000 students. Congratulations to Ms. Laura West and all of our Trojan team!
2. We have had 3 athletic signings over the past few weeks - 2 football (Kivan Barker & Zamarion Wilson) & 1 baseball (Xavier Parker)
3. Oaklawn STEM received a grant from the Arkansas Game & Fish in the amount of \$900.71 for an outdoor classroom.
4. Our bowling team competed at the state competition.
5. Our Thespian Troupe and our dancers went to the State Thespian Festival. Several awards were received!
6. PeeWee 4th grade girls, 5th grade boys, and 6th grade boys won the PeeWee basketball championships. Our future looks bright!
7. HSJA EAST has 3 students who are currently in the top 5 for the Tech Support Olympiad Challenge! The winners get to attend an on-site competition at the conference. This is one of the most difficult competitions to place in! We have one more round before we will know who gets to compete onsite.
8. Ana Moreno is a semifinalist for the Cooke College Scholarship Program. She was one of 626 semifinalists from a pool of over 5,600 applicants.
9. Our first Trojans Love Reading event was a huge success. Our next event is March 3 at all four elementary schools at 1:30.
10. We had three students place in the Elks Lodge Patriotism Essay contest. Janet Juarez (MVPA) received the Patriotism Award, Envy Holloman (MVPA) placed 2nd in her age group, and Arbrianna Irwin (HSJA) placed 1st in her age group.
11. Mrs. Aquia Vasseau took her environmental science students on a field trip to the Hot Springs Water & Waste Company.
12. Several of our student groups have partnered with our community to provide supports including Mrs. Harper's PACE class at HSWCHS (The Giving Team) and our HSWCHS National Honor Society (Jackson House).

13. HSSD had more than 220 students compete at the State Beta Convention. More than 80 qualified in individual or team competitions to attend the National Beta Convention in Louisville, KY, in June.
14. For the first time today, we had two Trojan students make it to a final round in the Garland County Spelling Bee! Angelica Benitez from Langston Elementary Leadership Academy and Theo Bradley from Park Magnet, an IB World School, were both among the final four spellers to compete today. In all, we had 14 students participate - which was the largest group there - from all four elementary schools and the Hot Springs Junior Academy. We appreciate our HSSD Gifted and Talented Program for facilitating this each year for all kids in grades 2-8 through the National Scripps Spelling Bee Program.
15. Finally, our Ms. Davis and Mr. Knott, and the Hot Springs World Class High School Team, organized an outstanding Career Exploration Fair today at the Indoor Practice Facility. Students from our high school and from Cutter Morning Star explored more than 30 booths that represented an array of career options and local businesses.

January 2023

1. Thank you to Robert Goodeaux, Head Bus Mechanic, and Jeff Rash, Bus Mechanic, as we received our best inspection report in many years. We had 37 buses inspected and had 6 minors and 0 major notations! We have a very safe bus fleet!!!
2. Craig O'Neil highlighted our Hot Springs Dance Troupe and Ms. Cherri Mertz as Arkansan of the Day over the last month. Mrs. Amy Bramlett-Turner was featured as a Teacher Moving Arkansas Forward on THV11, too.
3. We had several students and student groups who performed in our community to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day on Saturday and Monday. We, also, had the Hot Springs Dance Troupe and the HSJA Choir featured at the Hot Springs Music Club program on Sunday.
4. First Semester has officially ended and Second Semester began today.
5. Mrs. Kristen Gordon, MVPA Principal, traveled to White River School District in Washington state as part of the statewide PLC initiative.
6. The legislative session is underway and I will be actively advocating for public schools. The Governor's L.E.A.R.N.S. initiative is linked [here](#).
7. Our HSSD Gifted and Talented Program hosted Spelling Bees at all four Trojan elementary schools and the Hot Springs Junior Academy; the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners from each school will compete in February at the Garland County Spelling Bee! Congrats to the following students:
 - a. Main Street Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School Winners: Janet Juarez (First Place) Lyric Lamb (Second Place), and Khristyn Hoskins (Third Place)
 - b. Park Magnet, an IB World School Winners: Theo Bradley (First Place) Lily Lunestad (Second Place), and Andie Hermann (Third Place)
 - c. Oaklawn STEM Magnet School Winners: Kiyanna Hare (First Place), Malachi Tackett (Second Place), and Gregori Johnson (Third Place)
 - d. Langston Elementary Leadership Academy Winners: De'Shawn Johnson (First Place) Angelica Benetiz (Second Place), and Zy'Aire Smith (Third Place)

- e. Hot Springs Junior Academy Winners: Liam Evans (First Place) Cantrell Addy (Second Place), and Nate Upshaw (Third Place)
- 8. Trojan 5th grader Paxton Smith, from Park Magnet, led a fundraising effort last school year to help communities in need following catastrophic events. He was concerned after watching extensive damage caused by tornadoes in Kentucky. After recruiting support from Park families, students, and staff- Paxton raised \$350.40. This week, Paxton and his family, alongside our Mrs. Burton and Mrs. Vaughan, presented those funds to our friends and neighbors at the Jessierville School District. Jessierville staff had a great use for the funds ... Paxton visited with Jessierville third grade students who will use the donation to help rebuild a beloved chicken coop that was destroyed during the storm (*all chickens survived!). Elementary students care for the chickens and maintain the coop on campus.

December 2022

- 1. HSJA EAST Team won 3rd place in the Congressional App Challenge
- 2. Dr. Echols and Mrs. Brandon presented 'I Believe in Inquiry!' at the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence 2022 National Conference on November 30.
- 3. Victoria Mitchell, a 9th grade student at HSJA, was the Arkansan of the Day on THV11 on December 1
- 4. Billy McNeely from our HSSD Maintenance Department was honored by Dawson as they celebrated school maintenance workers. He has been with our district for 32 years.
- 5. [School Calendar Survey Update](#)
- 6. We received approval from the HS Planning Commission for our new high school last Thursday

November 2022

- 1. [ESSER Update](#)
- 2. District support teams
- 3. Leading PLCs Districtwide
- 4. ESSA School Index release & [Community Call to Action](#)
- 5. Millage Rollback - due to countywide reappraisal or reassessment increases of 10% or more, we will be experiencing a millage rollback from 42.1 to 41.6.
- 6. Arkansas School Recognition Program - Rewards Schools -- Congratulations to Park for being one of 178 schools to receive reward monies. They were one of 51 schools who performed in the Top 5% across the state and will receive \$100 per student for a total of \$39,700.
- 7. Student accolades:
 - a. Three [#HSSD](#) orchestra students qualified for All-Region!
 - >Winston Wright, 8th Grade, Violin
 - >Joseph Martinez, 9th Grade, Violin
 - >Michael Blades, 12th Grade, Double Bass
 - b. Our Hot Springs Junior Academy JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) Class competed for the first time in JAG Student Leadership Competitions
 - >Our Savannah Tankersley and Kalleigh Alexander took 2nd place in the Business Plan Competition for their business called "Button Shack."

>Isabella Ibarra-Reyes, Luccas Sanders, Mercy Danner, and Sapharie Evans also placed in the Project-Based Learning Competition for their project called "Just Eat It!".

- c. The Trojan Art Club was invited - through a new exciting partnership between The Arlington Hotel, Chartwells, and the HSSD - to serve as the artists of the edible holiday decorations on the Arlington Gingerbread House display!
- d. Our Thespian Troupe #78 premiered their One Act Play: "They Eat Sunshine, Not Zebras" and took it on the road to compete at the One Act Thespian Festival in Searcy.
- e. We had over 30 elementary students participate in the 2nd annual Elementary Cross Country Race, hosted by our Trojan Cross Country and Track Team, and Coach Milton and Coach Poole. Our elementary kids had a ball! This is such a fun way to introduce them to the sport at an early age.
- f. For the first time, our 6th Grade Pee Wee Trojan Football Team qualified to compete in the Pee Wee Championship Football Game! Our staff and students all came together in support with a first time Pee Wee Championship Game Pep Rally, which included our Student Council, Band, Spirit Teams, and Varsity Football Team AND 6th grade students from all four elementary schools. It was a day FULL of Trojan spirit and celebration.
- g. I want to end by challenging you all to make sure you know about the MANY student holiday performances, events, and concerts ahead in December. Our Trojans are working so hard to offer inspiring performances in the coming weeks for our families and our community. Choose one, or attend them all! ... but don't miss out on being part of the holidays with our kids. We are so excited, and our student groups are working very hard.

October 2022

- 1. Chief Seymour and I met with Bo Robertson, Director of the Office of Emergency Management. We have tested the ability to remote unlock our safe room in the event of an emergency need.
- 2. Inaugural COSSBA Annual Conference will be held March 30-April 2, 2023, in Tampa, FL.
- 3. ASBA School Board Training will be available at Dawson on November 3rd and November 10th from 5:30-8:30. A Zoom option will be available for both sessions.
- 4. ASBA Annual Conference December 7-9 in Little Rock.
- 5. Our first HSSD Homecoming Parade held October 10th, was AMAZING! Big thanks to Dr. Echols, Mrs. Barnes, and Mrs. Deardorff for leading the planning and implementation of the big event!!!
- 6. Construction Planning Update
- 7. Langston's School Board Visit on Monday, October 24 - begin at 7:30 a.m. opening car doors and stay as long as you can!

September 2022

- 1. Our first day of school (and few weeks/month) have been great!
- 2. We hosted Rep. McGrew, City Manager Burrough, and Chamber CEO/President Troutman for Take Your Legislator to School Month last Friday, September 16. I couldn't be more proud of our students who shared about all of our offerings in HSSD. Our visitors were all impressed!
- 3. Grandparents and Arts in Education Week allowed our families to come back into our buildings last week. We had great turnouts and lots of positive feedback.

4. Our Dance Troupe performed at the THEA Into the Blue Gala last weekend.
5. Garland County Fair Celebrations - 2 art students placed, Ana Moreno & Lydia Godwin; 3 best in show & 2 best in show finalists from our HSJA art & pottery classes, Marion Dryden, Jasmine V, & Cynthia; 2 elementary students won fair pageants, Maggie Mitchell & Kamryn Goins
6. Congratulations to all of our student athletes and spirit teams - we are having a great fall season so far!
7. Miss Trojan Pageant Princesses attend New York Fashion Week "Beauty It's Everywhere!" event in New York.

August 2022

1. It has been an amazing summer of professional development and student learning experiences.
2. State required testing data is in. We have lots to celebrate and lots of work still to do!
3. Trojan Boutique Staff Shopping Days - Mrs. Holder offered at the Welcome Center
4. Chief Seymour has been appointed by Governor Hutchinson to serve on the Advisory Board of the Arkansas Center for School Safety of the Criminal Justice Institute, for a term to expire on August 3, 2023.
5. Shout out to our 2022 DP seniors. They earned approximately 235 college credit hours based on their May IB scores and saved almost \$66,000 in tuition in Arkansas. Some of our top students are attending Universities outside of Arkansas and were not included in this data.
6. Chartwells' 2022 Summer Meal Program served 8,190 lunches and 3,406 breakfasts in June & July!
7. Cherri Mertz is being featured in HER Magazine for being 'Mama Mertz' and providing support to students.
8. Our HSSD Superintendent's Parent Council will shift to a District PTO this year. Our first meeting will be Saturday, August 27, at 9:00 in the HSSD Board Room.
9. Our opening PD day yesterday was amazing! The energy in all of our buildings is simply awesome. It is going to be a wonderful year!

July 2022

1. All of our schools had national winners at the National Beta Convention in Nashville, TN, last month.
2. Oaklawns Stem Magnet has received DESE's designation as an Accomplishing STEM Program. They are working to gain Model Program Designation in the near future.
3. HWSCHS IB scores are in... 12/20 (60%) of the students earned their IB Diploma and 17/22 (77%) earned their CP Certificate!
4. New Hire Onboarding Luncheon on Wednesday, August 3, at HSJA Cafeteria at 11:30.
5. We had our HSSD Admin Retreat last Thursday, July 14.
6. [ESSER & Vaccination Update](#)
7. We just returned from the IB Global Conference in San Diego.

June 2022

1. 3 HSWCHS students are interning with Cobalt Aero Services and 1 with Triumph Product Support (paid internships). 2 students secured jobs with Windows USA through the job fair experience at NPC.
2. Tom Ellsworth Dr. building appraisal - estimated market value is in the range of \$210,000.
3. Joint Use Agreement Grant update - Greenwood Park
4. Two Troupes, One Trojan Family! On Saturday, students with our Hot Springs Dance Troupe departed for the "Stars of Tomorrow" performance tour in Austria AND students with our Thespian Troupe #78 are bound for the International Thespian Competition in Indiana!
5. Our HSSD Welcome Center is open all summer long on weekdays, from 8:00 - 12:00. We are excited to have this facility open during our first summer without strict Covid-related precautions; we are hopeful about serving families across Hot Springs with a fully stocked food/clothing pantry, air-conditioned space with computers and wifi, washer/dryer facilities, shower facilities and toiletry items, and more.
6. The TrojanEats Food Truck Route and TrojansRead Book Bus Route have gone very well in June. Thank you again to Chartwells for the outstanding work that they do to serve kids across the area, even during the summer. Our Media Specialists and Volunteers from the District Office have stocked the book bus with new reading material, and are enjoying Thursday routes and are preparing to be part of back-to-school events in August.
7. Trojan Pee Wee Athletic Camps have gone extremely well! It is so exciting to see our youngest Trojans working with our Jr High and Sr High Athletes! We've wrapped up Football Camp, Basketball Camp, Baseball/Softball Camp, T-Stepper Camp, Cheer Camp, Volleyball Camp and our final camp is finishing up on Wednesday - Soccer Camp. Our Coaches and athletes work so hard to host memorable experiences, and we are deeply appreciative.
8. We are also excited about our first-ever Enrichment Camps! Drone Academy and Coding Camp took place during the first part of June, and we received raving reviews from students and parents. Next week, our first rotation of Cooking/Writing Camp begins, followed by Visual Arts Camp, Performing Arts Camp for elementary and secondary students, and more! We will give you another update in July.
9. Our Hot Springs World Class High School FBLA Club competes at the National FBLA Competition on June 29 in Chicago!
10. Our National Beta Club students at all six campuses (76 students in total) will be competing at the National Beta Convention next week in Nashville, TN! We, again, have been named a National Beta District of Distinction...one of only 36 districts to receive this award nationwide and 1 of 7 in Arkansas.

May 2022

1. Mrs. Bratton has been selected to receive an Impact Fellowship
2. Our 7-12 Spring Musical - The Lightning Thief, A Percy Jackson Musical - was AWESOME!
3. Our New Teacher & Staff Onboarding will take place on Wednesday, August 3 - we ask the school board to join us for lunch, if possible
4. Trojan Battle Royale was a huge success (our first 5th/6th grade true track & field event)
5. Graduation was a successful culminating experience

6. [ESSER & Vaccination Updates](#)
7. HSWCHS has been selected for Cohort 6 of the state PLC Project
8. MSVPA has been selected for the PLC Inclusive Practices Project - Cohort 2
9. Superintendent Listening Tour sessions on Thursday for students, parents, and employees
10. Teacher of the Year Luncheon was a success! Building Teacher of the Year Awardees:
HSWCHS - Shirley Tipton, HSJA - Kate Neighbors, Park - Christie Spriggs, Oaklawn - Sarah Turner, Main Street - Katie Bradley, Langston - Mckenzie Elkins

April 2022

1. Planning for Summer - TrojansRead Book Bus, TrojanEats Food Truck, summer school, summer enrichment, driver's ed, PeeWee camps
2. IB of the Americas conference in July in San Diego - one board member is requested to attend (July 16-19, 2022)
3. Senior Events - Prom & Chamber's Academic Excellence Award Banquet
4. Senior Luncheon - Friday, April 22 from 11:00-1:00 in the Trojan Arena
5. [Trojan Graduation Ceremonies](#)
6. Agreement for Gardner to be used as a [Polling Site](#)
7. New website and school communication system coming soon...
8. [ESSER & Vaccination Updates](#)

March 2022

1. We have several students who have received state awards for winter sports - wrestling and swimming
2. COVID-19 Updates
3. [ESSER & Vaccination Updates](#)
4. Presentations to Leadership Hot Springs and Greater Hot Springs Kiwanis Club
5. HSWCHS has received the Sports Medicine Program of Study Start-Up Grant in the amount of \$31,956.67 (Athletic Trainer/Teacher position posted)
6. Legislative Update
7. We are currently promoting PreK and Kindergarten registration
8. Thrilled to continue to focus on Traditions - student dances are back (Coronation Ball - MSVPA, Throwback Thursday Dance - OSTEM, Neon Dance Party (HSJA), and hopeful for a normal Prom (HSWCHS)

February 2022

1. Behavior Specialist position - Act 1084
2. [ESSER & Vaccination Updates](#)
3. Vincent Mathews, HSWCHS, received a Computer Science Professional Development Sponsorship of up to \$2,000 to attend the Computer Science Teachers Association Annual Conference this summer in Chicago
4. Our junior high boys basketball team will be playing in the district championship game on Thursday evening at the Trojan Arena
5. HSWCHS new construction update

January 2022

1. COVID-19 Updates - [ACHI status](#)
2. [ESSER & Vaccination Updates](#)
3. ELC Grant - \$62,354 (ADH Grant for the ELC Reopening Schools)

December 2021

1. Superintendent's [Professional Growth Plan](#)
2. All of our schools, students, and teachers are to be commended for the wonderful holiday performances that have been taking place across the district.
3. [Vaccination Numbers](#)
4. [ESSER Updates](#)
5. Congratulations to Mrs. Debbie Ugade on receiving the President's Award from the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA) for receiving over 500 hours of professional development as a board member

November 2021

1. Superintendent's Councils Updates
2. We had 2 teams place in the top 5 of the Congressional App Challenge!

October 2021

1. October is National Principals Month - thank you Mrs. Simms, Mr. Brazle, Ms. Wilson, Mrs. Gordon, Ms. Newborn, and Dr. Oatsvall for your dedication to your schools and HSSD
2. Vaccination Incentive Updates
 - a. Staff - 372/469 are fully vaccinated (79%). 365 have received their incentive. 3/469 are partially vaccinated (1%). We have paid \$74,400 in incentives.
 - b. [Students](#)
3. [ESSER Updates](#)

September 2021

1. Park Magnet has been named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School!!! This is the third time they have received this honor!
2. SBMH Team will begin on October 4
3. Wonderful coverage in the press
4. Trojan Store opening

August 2021

1. First days of school

July 2021

1. Trojans Continuity of Learning Committee Meeting Update
2. HSSD Administrator's Retreat - The HSSD Tradition
3. Professional Development

4. Chef Andrew's Demonstrations
5. State Testing Data Update - 47% In Need of Support in Reading (Act 1082 - Coordinated School Support)
6. Digital Learning Plan (Trojan Virtual Academy) has been approved - currently 19 students accepted

June 2021

1. HSTI is coming June 21-24 with a hybrid model
2. Summer hours began June 14 and will end July 16
3. End of year celebration success
4. Summer School: June 28th - July 23rd for elementary schools; June 14-July 15 for secondary schools
5. Book Bus starts next week
6. PeeWee Camps are happening now

May 2021

1. [NIROTC](#) - adding 8th grade
2. Oaklawn STEM has been selected for cohort five of the PLC Pilot Project
3. Chartwells will be adding a District Chef next year
4. Mid-America Science Museum School Membership Program
5. COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Friday!
6. Madagascar is here...performances tonight and Thursday at 6:00