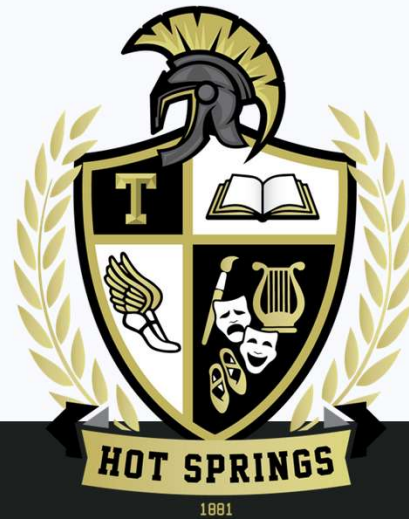


**HOT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# **HOME OF THE TROJANS**



DIVERSE. DEDICATED. UNIFIED.  
A PLACE FOR EVERYONE



## MISSION + VISION

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- The mission of the Hot Springs School District is to educate and empower each student to graduate from high school, college, and/or career-ready, respect diversity, and to be contributing members of a global society.
- The vision of the Hot Springs School District is to set the standard for education.



# OUR SCHOOL BOARD

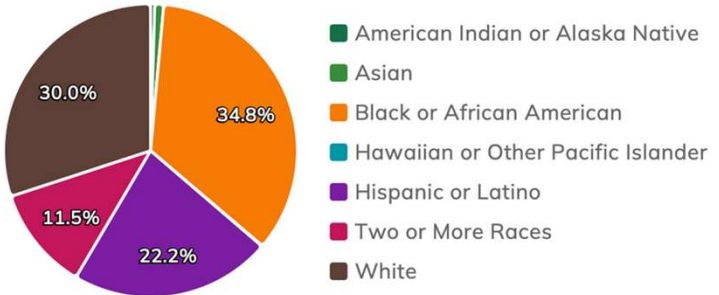
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- Debbie Ugbade, President
- Dr. Cindy Rogers, Vice President
- Dino Lenox, Secretary
- Linda White
- Barbara Ellis Erby

# DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS



Student race and ethnicity



Student groups



# DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

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- 16 Home Languages: Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Farsi, Filipino, French, Hakha-Chin; Lai, Gujarati, Japanese, Romanian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese
- 100% of all students are eligible for Free Meals under the Community Eligibility Provision
- 14:1 Student-to-teacher ratio
- 51.7% of Hot Springs teachers hold advanced degrees
- 15 Hot Springs teachers are Nationally Board Certified



# ENROLLMENT

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- The 2025-2026 ADE Data Center has HSSD with an enrollment of 3412.
- This is a decline of 217 students since the 2020-2021 school year.

# SCHOOL LEADERS

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Kiley Simms, Hot Springs World Class High School Academy



Kristal Brandon, Hot Springs Junior Academy



Dr. Kyria Wilson, Langston Elementary Leadership



2025-2026  
HSSD Principals



Kristen Gordon, Main Street Visual & Performing Arts



Nikki Anderson, Oaklawn Stem Magnet



Marissa Burton, Park IB



# OVERVIEW OF HSSD

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- **Bell to Bell, NO Cell**
  - Kiley Simms, HSWCHS Principal
- **3rd Grade Promotion**
  - Kristen Gordon, MVPA Principal
- **Hot Springs School District Police Department**
- **District Letter Grades and Programs**
  - Dr. Taryn Echols
- **District Overview and Closing**
  - Dr. Mike Hernandez



# BELL TO BELL CELL

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- HSSD piloted Bell to Bell no cell during the 2024-2025 school year with Hot Springs Junior Academy and Hot Springs World Class High School.
- Positive Feedback
  - Teachers enjoy being able to not have the device as a distraction.
  - Majority of families are supportive.

# 3RD GRADE PROMOTION

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## Our Strategic Initiative

- The delay in obtaining data did not weaken our determination to develop an independent strategy. Each school actively connected with the families of K-3 students, using the initial assessments carried out at HSSD as a foundational resource.
- We identified 91 third-grade students classified as Level 1 on the 2024-2025 ATLAS Reading Summative Assessment.
- It was crucial that we begin our efforts without delay.



## 3RD GRADE PROMOTION WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW



### Why it Matters

By the end of 3rd grade, children shift from learning to read → reading to learn. Strong reading skills set the stage for lifelong success



### What is Required for Promotion

For 3rd-grade promotion, students should:

- ✓ Score Level 2 or higher on the ATLAS Reading Test OR
- ✓ Qualify for a Good Cause Exemption



### At Home Support

- Read 10-20 minutes daily together
- Ask story questions: "What happened first? Why do you think...?"
- Practice sight words and letter sounds
- Attend teacher conferences & review progress reports
- Encourage and celebrate your child's reading growth

## THE HSSD COMMITMENT TO YOU

- Monitor reading starting in Kindergarten (screeners, classroom work, assessments) through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- Provide small-group or one-on-one help for students showing risk.
- Create Individual Reading Plans (IRPs) for struggling readers and share with families.
- Track progress with frequent monitoring and adjust supports as needed.
- Ensure teachers use Science of Reading-based instruction (90 minutes daily).
- Keep families informed with updates, conferences, and take-home literacy plans.
- Offer access to literacy tutoring, summer programs, or high-impact tutoring when needed.

# 3RD GRADE PROMOTION

## Family Intervention Meetings

- At those meetings, families received a flyer and a tri-fold pamphlet to guide them on the next steps.
- This occurred before the October parent conferences, specifically in September.
- A follow-up meeting took place after we obtained the second-grade Summative Data from the Spring and the Beginning of Year (BOY) data from DESE.



## NEED HELP?

Contact your child's school or the district office for resources, tutoring opportunities, or family workshops.

- Langston - Dr. Kyria Wilson, Principal
- Main Street - Kristen Gordon, Principal
- Oaklawn STEM - Nikki Anderson, Principal
- Park Magnet - Marissa Burton, Principal
- District Office - Dr. Taryn Echols, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction



## HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

### At Home:

- Read with your child daily (10–20 minutes)
- Ask questions about stories (“What happened first? Why do you think...?”)
- Practice sight words, letter sounds, and fluency
- Use resources provided by your child's teacher

### At School:

- Stay in touch with your child's teacher about reading progress
- Attend family conferences when results are shared (after BOY, MOY, and EOY assessments)



## 3RD GRADE PROMOTION

**What Families Need to Know About Arkansas' Third-Grade Promotion Requirements**

## HOW SCHOOLS SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

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### Early Identification

- Reading progress is monitored beginning in kindergarten. If a child struggles, schools provide:
  - Small-group or one-on-one help
  - Individual Reading Plans (IRPs) shared with families
  - Regular progress updates

### Intervention

- Students may receive:
  - Intensive literacy instruction (90 minutes daily)
  - High-impact tutoring or summer learning opportunities
  - Access to literacy tutoring grants



EVERY STUDENT. EVERY MOMENT.  
EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

”

TOGETHER  
OUR STUDENTS  
WILL  
SUCCEED

”

## WHY READING BY 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE MATTERS

- **Why is this important?**
  - By the end of 3rd grade, students shift from learning to read → reading to learn. Strong reading skills open doors to success in every subject.
- **What does the law say?**
  - Starting with the 2025–2026 school year, 3rd graders must meet the state reading standard (Level 2 or higher on the ATLAS ELA assessment) or qualify for an exemption to move on to 4th grade.
  - What is ATLAS? → It's the state's comprehensive assessment system for public school students in grades K-10
  - “What happens if my child scores Level 1?” → They may qualify for extra help or an exemption.”

## WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARD?

### Students not promoted will:

- Be taught by a highly effective reading teacher
- Receive daily evidence-based instruction aligned to the Science of Reading
- Have an at-home literacy plan to strengthen skills
- Be prioritized for tutoring programs

### Good Cause Exemptions (students may still move to 4th grade if):

- They have significant disabilities (DLM eligible)
  - They have an IEP/504 with 2+ years of documented intervention
  - They are English Learners (less than 3 years in program)
  - They were previously retained
  - They can show grade-level work through a portfolio
  - A traumatic event impacted their performance
-



**HOT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Diverse. Dedicated. Unified.  
A Place for Everyone.

Third Grade Parent Intervention Conference

Student Name	Teacher/Grade:	School

**ROY Assessment Results**

Assessment	At Risk Potential Score	Your Child's Score
Oral Reading Fluency	83 words per minute	
<p><b>** There is a possibility for at risk scores on the ATLAS Screener. These results will not be given to schools until October. Your child's school will contact you if your child was at risk for any skill assessed.</b></p>		

**1st Quarter Skills**

Skills	Expectation	Your Child's Results/Feedback
Orally Read Text	<input type="checkbox"/> 83 words per minute at BOY <input type="checkbox"/> MOY is 97 words per minute.	
Answer key details from a text.	Example <input type="checkbox"/> Answer questions from a passage about key details.	
Write informative or explanatory pieces about a topic, using sources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Students can use their thoughts to write about a topic using sources.	



**HOT SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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A Place for Everyone.

Third Grade Parent Intervention Conference

Strength of your child	Areas in need of improvement

**Ways to help your child at home: (School liaisons, please be sure to give concrete examples of what parents can work on specifically aligned to the deficits written above in the progress)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Work on the homework provided by your child's teacher. <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Schools can use this document to pull passages to give families.</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Use Level 2 Foundations High Frequency Word List</a>
---

School Liaison Signature	Date of Conference	Parent Signature



## AFTER SCHOOL

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- In November, we launched a five-week after-school program aimed at students in grades 2 and 3 who are at risk.
- The program operates from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. We will host two additional 5-week sessions in January and March.
- Unfortunately, this initiative does not meet the criteria for High Impact Tutoring Grants since it takes place after school.
- Our objective is to reduce the number of students who are likely to meet the initial recommendations for potential non-promotion.

# HSSD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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HSSDPD effectively began in 2019, after state law permitted school districts to establish their own on-campus police departments — and after formal approval in October of that year.

They operate in three main areas:

- Comprehensive Campus Safety & Rapid Response Capabilities
- Relationship-Based Policing That Builds Trust With Students & Families
- Specialized Training & Safety Programs Focused on Prevention and Preparedness

# DISTRICT LETTER GRADE



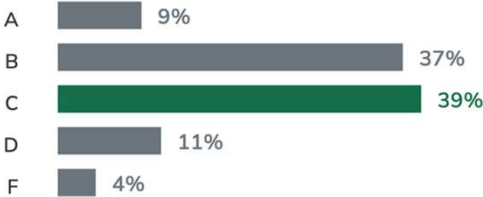
What is this district's letter grade?

C

School year 2024-2025

How does this district compare?

Of all districts across Arkansas, 39% also earned a C letter grade.



# DISTRICT ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

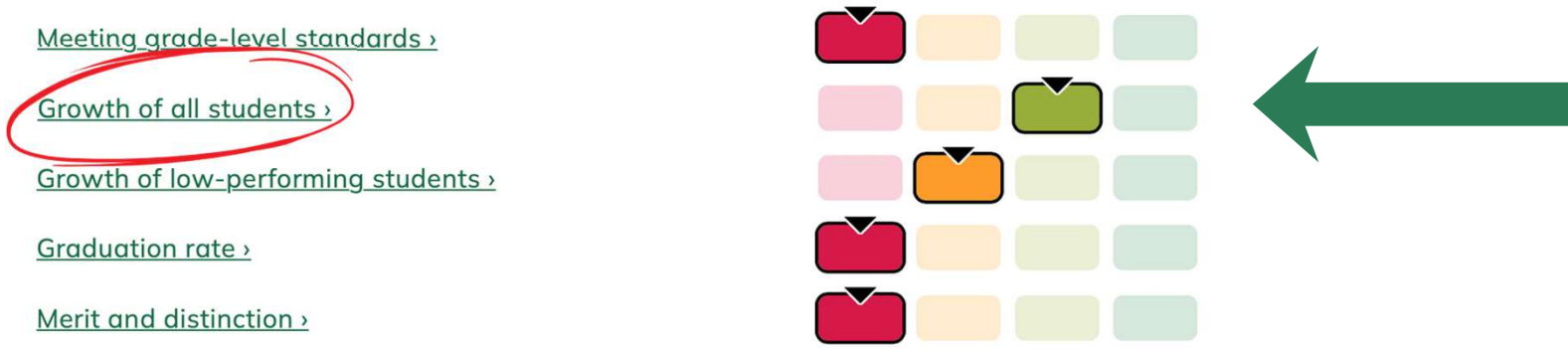
## How has this district performed in important areas?

Each area gets a color based on how they compare to **other districts in the state**.



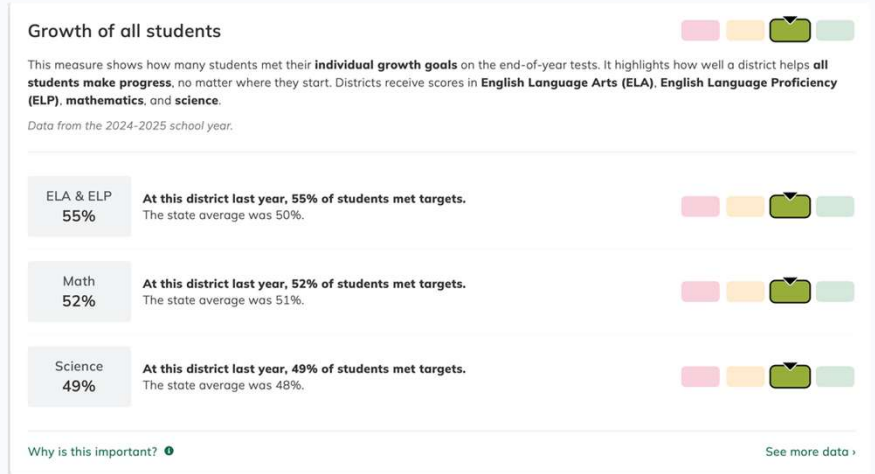
How are these colors set? ⓘ

This district has five areas. They received these colors:



# WHY GROWTH MATTERS

- We are systematically growing our students.
- We have worked on each school’s plan for intervention this year to ensure each child meets their expected growth.
- Math is an area of immediate need, and we have worked on that during the first half of this school year with targeted professional learning, classroom walkthroughs, and coaching.



G 3-10 Data Overall	#	23-24	#	24-25	Difference +/-
ELA		24.67		24.7	0.03
Reading		25.84		26.71	0.87
Math		23.83		24.61	0.78
Math Combined		21.21		21.28	0.07
Science		24.61		25.06	0.45
Science Combined		26.01		26.75	0.74
Biology		34.25		36.92	2.67
Alg 1		18.09		8.3	-9.79
Geometry		8.37		12.02	3.65

# OEP AWARDS - HIGH SCHOOL

- For three consecutive years, our high school has proudly been recognized as a school that's beating the odds.
- This achievement is a testament to our unwavering commitment to systematically nurturing our students' growth.
- We've meticulously developed and implemented intervention plans tailored to ensure every student meets their expected growth benchmarks.



# DISTRICT PROGRAMS

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- IB Program - PYP, MYP, CP/DP
  - During the 2024-2025 school year, 227 students in grades 10–12 were enrolled in IB courses, representing about 30% of the upperclassmen.
  - In 2018, 59 students participated in IB testing, and this May, 134 students registered to take the test, which is a 127% increase over the past five years.
  - This growth reflects students' increasing interest in the challenging and globally focused learning experiences offered through the IB Programme.

# MOVING FORWARD

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## Key Priorities

- Addressing Arkansas ACCESS
  - Enhancing program efficiency
  - Improving family communication of offerings and what students need
- School Calendar
  - Revised calendar aimed at maximizing learning time



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

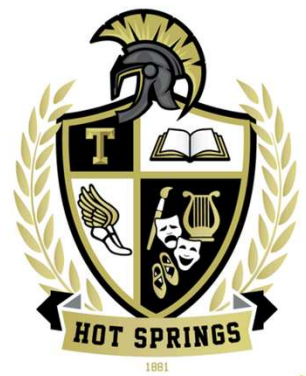
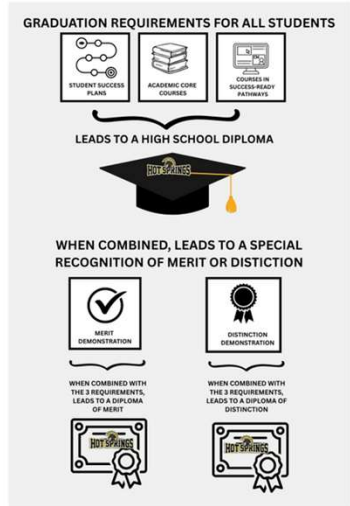
**Diploma of Distinction**  
Students will earn special recognition at graduation if they complete a Success Ready Pathway **AND** one of the following (may be pathway-specific)

- Earn an Associate's Degree
- ASVAB with a score of 31+ **AND** enlist in a branch of the military
- Complete all components of the IBDP, including testing and core (IBDP Pathway only)

**Diploma of Merit**  
Students will earn special recognition at graduation for completing a Success Ready Pathway **AND** one of the following (may be pathway-specific):

- Earn the Industry Certification in their Success Ready Pathway
  - ACT Workkeys Platinum
  - ASVAB with a score of 31+
- Complete 12+ hours of post-secondary credit
- Earn the Seal of Biliteracy (World Languages Pathway only)
- Complete 3+ IB classes and earn a score of 4 or higher in each area (IB Course Pathway only)
- Complete all components of the IBCP, including testing and core (IBCP Pathway only)

” **TOGETHER OUR STUDENTS WILL SUCCEED** ”



**HSSD PATH TO GRADUATION**  
**MOVING TOWARDS SUCCESS READY GRADUATES**

### Option 1: High School Diploma

**What it is:** Students complete all 22 state-required courses and 75 community service hours to earn a standard Arkansas high school diploma. These requirements are from the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- Why choose this path:**
- Builds a strong academic foundation for life after high school.
  - Allows flexibility to explore electives, internships, or concurrent credit options.

**Keep in mind:**  
Students who stop at the minimum requirements may miss out on credentials or college credit that boost future opportunities.

### Option 2: Success Ready Pathway with Industry Certification

**What it is:** Students complete a career-focused pathway aligned to their interests (e.g., health science, IT, engineering, education) and pass an industry certification or assessment.

- Why choose this path:**
- Earns a state-recognized certification and “Success Ready” seal on your diploma.
  - Leads directly to employment or higher wages after graduation.

**Keep in mind:**  
Certifications require extra effort and time — but pay off in the long run.



## ARKANSAS LEARNS & SUCCESS READY

Effective March 2023, Arkansas LEARNS enacted comprehensive changes aimed at expanding quality education statewide. A pillar of the law, Readiness, prioritizes that every Arkansas student is on a pathway to prosperity and graduates with the skills needed to succeed in the workforce. To ensure readiness, the Arkansas Department of Education commits to:

- Promoting Early Career Experiences** Beginning in the Middle Grades by providing a framework for students in middle school with age-appropriate activities that expose them to academic, career, and technical fields of study that enable them to explore a wide range of post-secondary and career choices
- Aligning Student Success Plans with Career-Ready Pathways** by providing a Student Success Plan (SSP) template that guides educators and students through documenting academic and extracurricular activities that align with career-ready pathways.
- Building Career-Ready Pathways to a Diploma** by developing processes and requirements for career-ready pathways that align with high-wage, high-demand careers for all high-school graduates. This includes processes to manage approved pathways over time, ensuring that pathways offered are based on current labor-market information.

To streamline opportunities for success in the HSSD, we have curated four unique pathways for students to choose as their secondary experience.

- High School Diploma
- Success Ready Pathway with Certifications
- Concurrent Credit
- International Baccalaureate Programmes: Diploma Programme/ Career-Related Study Programme/ Course

While it is possible to change a pathway after 9th grade, it can sometimes be tricky. Please be sure to consult with your child and your child's counselor to determine which pathway is the best for your child.

### Option 3: Concurrent Credit (college courses in high school)

**What it is:** Students take approved college courses through a partner university and earn both high school and college credit.

- Why choose this path:**
- Earn one full high school credit per semester of college work.
  - Courses are weighted on a 5.0 GPA scale for an academic boost.
  - Students completing 12+ college hours receive special recognition at graduation.
  - Get a head start on college by earning transferable credits early.

**Keep in mind:**  
College grades affect future financial aid eligibility. Students must manage college deadlines and coursework independently. The Arkansas Lottery Scholarship reduces eligibility by one year for every 30 earned college hours.

### Option 4: International Baccalaureate Programmes

**What it is:** Rigorous, globally recognized programs emphasizing critical thinking, writing, and community engagement.

- Why choose this path:**
- Develops strong study and research skills for college success.
  - Opportunity to earn college credit based on final IB scores.
  - Students receive special recognition at graduation for completing 3+ IB courses, IBCP, or IBDP.

**Keep in mind:**

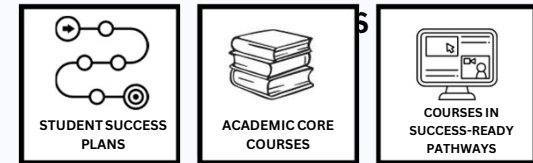
- College credit awards vary by institution and score.
- Coursework includes advanced reading, writing, and independent projects.

# EDUCATING FAMILIES

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- Our goal is to make the information from ACCESS simple for families to make the best-informed decision for students. We've broken that down into four categories:
  - **Option 1: High School Diploma**
  - **Option 2: Success Ready Pathway with Industry Certification**
  - **Option 3: Concurrent Credit (college courses in high school)**
  - **Option 4: International Baccalaureate Programmes**
- This provides them with a road map to choose the option that best fits their needs.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL



LEADS TO A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



## WHEN COMBINED, LEADS TO A SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MERIT OR DISTINCTION



WHEN COMBINED WITH THE 3 REQUIREMENTS, LEADS TO A DIPLOMA OF MERIT



WHEN COMBINED WITH THE 3 REQUIREMENTS, LEADS TO A DIPLOMA OF DISTINCTION



# TROJANS ARE SUCCESS READY

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - EARLY CAREER AWARENESS

Students begin to recognize and understand different types of careers through experiences that connect classroom learning to the world of work. Career awareness activities introduce a variety of professions and spark curiosity about future possibilities, encouraging students to imagine themselves in different roles. In 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, students take a career interest survey and spend time learning about the secondary career experiences at Hot Springs Junior Academy.

## JUNIOR HIGH - CAREER EXPERIENCES

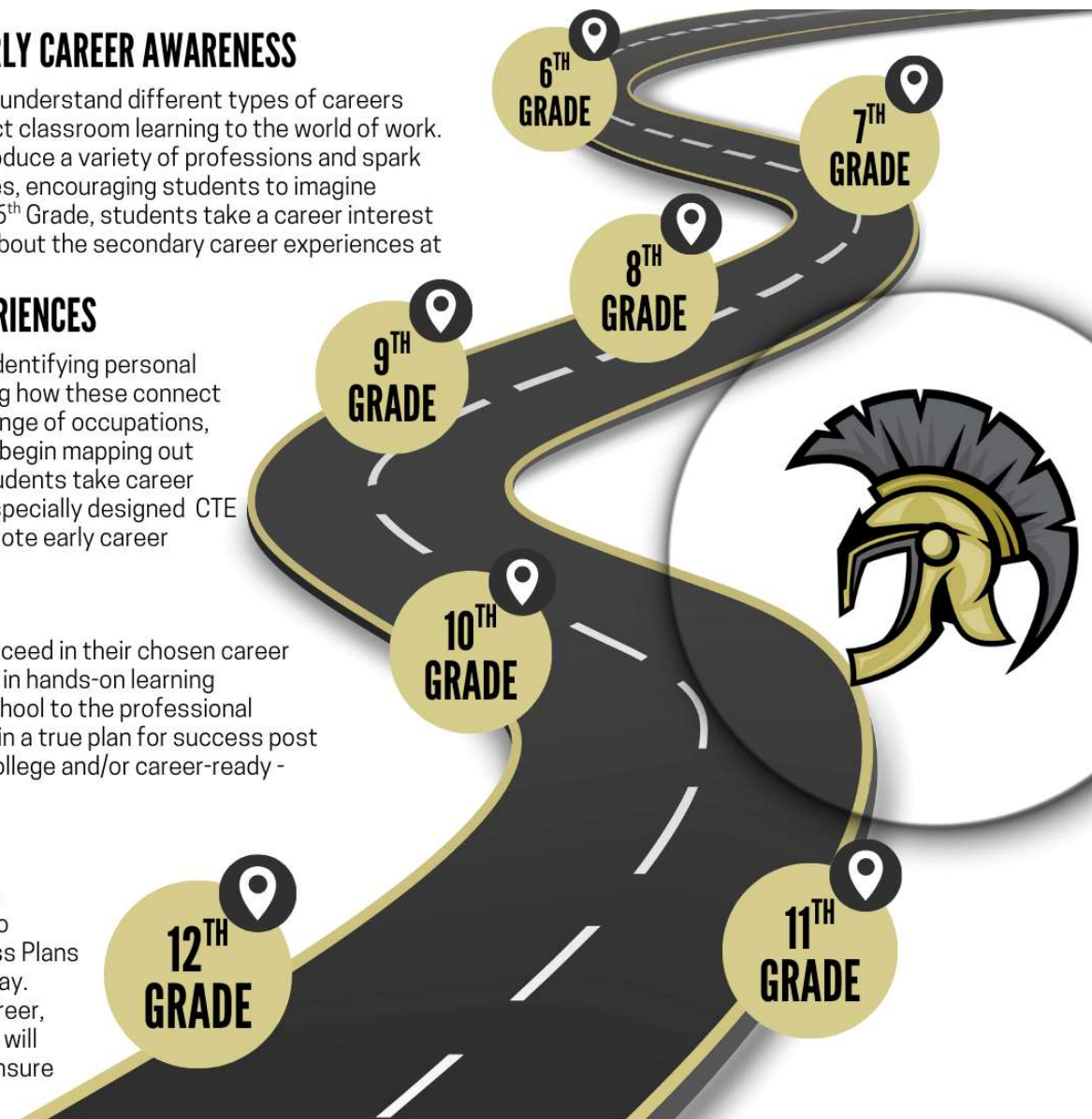
Students deepen their self-understanding by identifying personal interests, values, and strengths, and by learning how these connect to potential career paths. They investigate a range of occupations, consider the skills and education required, and begin mapping out ideas for their future goals. In grades 7-8-9, students take career development, explore career choices through specially designed CTE courses, and participate in a reality fair to promote early career interest.

## HIGH SCHOOL - CAREER PREPRATION

Students focus on building the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to succeed in their chosen career pathway. They refine their understanding of workplace expectations, participate in hands-on learning opportunities, and gain practical experience to prepare for the transition from school to the professional world. In grades 10-11-12, students create personal portfolios to support them in a true plan for success post graduation. Our goal is to promote our mission to empower each student to be college and/or career-ready - Enroll, Enlist, or Employ.

## STUDENT SUCCESS PLAN - A GUIDE TO THE DIPLOMA

Every student should graduate from high school "success ready", which requires districts and schools to provide high-quality pathways and the support needed to complete them. By connecting the Early Career Experiences and Student Success Plans to course selection, students build the foundation of their success-ready pathway. Student Success Plans (SSP) are designed to help guide students' academic, career, and postsecondary planning. Through a collaborative planning process, students will have the tools necessary to plan for their academic and professional future to ensure they are career-ready upon graduation.





## 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

JULY 2026							AUGUST 2026							SEPTEMBER 2026													
		1	2	3			3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4							
6	7	8	9	10			10	11	12	13	14						7	8	9	10	11						
13	14	15	16	17			17	18	19	20	21						14	15	16	17	18						
20	21	22	23	24			24	25	26	27	28						21	22	23	24	25						
27	28	29	30	31			31										28	29	30								

OCTOBER 2026							NOVEMBER 2026							DECEMBER 2026													
			1	2			2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9			9	10	11	12	13						7	8	9	10	11						
12	13	14	15	16			16	17	18	19	20						14	15	16	17	18						
19	20	21	22	23			23	24	25	26	27						21	22	23	24	25						
26	27	28	29	30			30									28	29	30	31								

JANUARY 2027							FEBRUARY 2027							MARCH 2027													
						1	1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	4	5						
4	5	6	7	8			16	17	18	19							8	9	10	11	12						
11	12	13	14	15			22	23	24	25	26						15	16	17	18	19						
18	19	20	21	22												22	23	24	25	26							
25	26	27	28	29												29	30	31									

APRIL 2027							MAY 2027							JUNE 2027												
			1	2			3	4	5	6	7						1	2	3	4						
5	6	7	8	9			8	9	10	11	12					7	8	9	10	11						
12	13	14	15	16			17	18	19	20	21					14	15	16	17	18						
19	20	21	22	23			24	25	26	27	28				21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30			31								28	29	30									

<span style="background-color: #f2f2f2; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Student Days	<span style="background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Teacher Work Days	<span style="background-color: #90ee90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Parent-Teacher Conferences	<span style="background-color: #ff00ff; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> Holiday
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**Important Dates:**

July 26 - Teachers Report	Nov. 23 - 27 - Thanksgiving Break	March 19 - 26 - Spring Break
Aug. 4 - First Day of School	Dec. 21 - Jan. 5 - Holiday Break	April 16 & 19 - No School
Sept. 7 & 8 - Holiday	Jan. 16 - MLK Day - No School	May 26 - Last Day of School
Oct. 9 - P/T Conferences	Feb. 12 & 13 - No School	June 1 - Last Day for Teachers
Oct. 9 - 16 - Fall Break	March 18 - P/T Conferences	

Hot Springs School District Central Office  
400 Linwood Ave.  
501-623-3372

Hot Springs World Class High School  
821 Emory Street  
501-624-5266

Main Street Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School  
701 Main Street  
501-623-2661

Hot Springs Junior Academy  
401 Emory Street  
501-624-5228

Oaklawn STEM Magnet School  
301 Oaklawn Blvd.  
501-620-7822

Langston Elementary Leadership Academy  
300 Silver Street  
501-620-7821

Park Magnet, an IB World School  
617 Main Street  
501-623-5661

[WWW.HSSD.NET](http://WWW.HSSD.NET)

# RESTRUCTURED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our board voted last month to restructure our school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year.

We identified three areas for this adjustment:

- Maximize High-Quality Instructional Time Before Critical Assessments
- Improve Learning Consistency and Reduce Skill Regression
- Increase Equity by Ensuring All Students Receive the Full Instructional Program

# LATEST PROJECT - NEW BUILD HOT SPRINGS WORLD CLASS HIGH SCHOOL

- Hot Springs School District opened its new high school for their 10th-12th grade students in the spring of 2025.
- The new high school was built on the existing soccer field on the high school campus. The old high school was demolished in the summer of 2025 just shortly after the opening of the new high school.
- The new high school building consists of three sections: main, connecting and classroom. It is approximately 140,000 square feet in area and three stories tall.

