



2025 ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT



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400 Linwood Dr., Hot Springs

**WE ARE DIVERSE.
DEDICATED. UNIFIED.
A PLACE FOR EVERYONE**



2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

JULY 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

First Day TEACHERS – July 21, 2025

Last Day TEACHERS – June 5, 2026

July 24, 2025 - FIRST DAY – Students

June 4, 2026 - LAST DAY – Students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

July 21-23, 2025 (3 days)

September 8, 2025 (1 day)

October 20, 2025 (1 day)

January 5-6, 2026 (2 days)

February 23, 2026 (1 day)

March 30, 2026 (1 day)

June 5, 2026 (1 day)

HOLIDAYS/NO SCHOOL

September 1-5, 2025 (Labor Day Break)

October 10-20, 2025 (Fall Break)

November 24-28, 2025 (Thanksgiving Break)

December 22, 2025 – January 6, 2026 (Holiday Break)

*****Teachers staff development days on January 5-6, 2026 & students return January 7, 2026*****

January 19, 2026 (MLK Day)

February 16-23, 2026 (President's Day/Winter Break)

March 20-30, 2026 (Spring Break)

April 24 & 27, 2026 (April Break)

May 22 & 25, 2026 (Memorial Day Break)

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

October 9, 2025 (2:00 PM to 8:00 PM)

March 19, 2026 (2:00 PM to 8:00 PM)

END OF QUARTERS & SEMESTERS

End of 1st 9 Weeks:

October 2, 2025

49 - Teacher Days

45 - Student Days

Interim: August 25, 2025

Report Cards: October 9, 2025

End of 2nd 9 Weeks & 1st Semester:

December 19, 2025

46 - Teacher Days (9 weeks)

44 - Student Days (9 weeks)

95 - Teacher Days (Semester)

89 - Student Days (Semester)

Interim: November 12, 2025

Report Cards: January 9, 2026

End of 3rd 9 Weeks:

March 18, 2026

47 - Teacher Days

44 - Student Days

Interim: February 6, 2026

Report Cards: March 19, 2026

End of 4th 9 Weeks & Second Semester:

June 4, 2026

48 - Teacher Days (9 Weeks)

45 - Student Days (9 Weeks)

95 - Teacher Days (Semester)

89 - Student Days (Semester)

Interims: April 30, 2026

Report Cards: June 4, 2026

190 Teacher Days

178 Student Days

MAKE-UP DAYS, if needed**

February 18-20, April 24, & May 22, 2026

**Act 1469(2009) requires public school districts to include 5 make-up days in addition to student interaction days. These days will be used, as needed. If not needed, school will end on the 178th day of school.

JANUARY 2026						
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FEBRUARY 2026						
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MARCH 2026						
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29	30	31				

APRIL 2026						
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MAY 2026						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. MIKE HERNANDEZ

Dear Hot Springs School District Families and Community,

As I return to the Hot Springs School District, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve this remarkable community once again, and I look forward to building on the many successes of the 2024-2025 school year. This past year has been one of growth, innovation, and a continued commitment to excellence in education. From the achievements of our students in academics, arts, and athletics, to the tireless dedication of our educators and staff, the Hot Springs School District continues to be a place where every child is supported and encouraged to thrive.

We are proud to share several notable accomplishments from the 2024-2025 school year:

- Hot Springs World Class High School (HSWCHS) was recognized for the second year in a row by the Office of Education Policy at the University of Arkansas for Beating the Odds both overall and in English Language Arts.
- In January 2025, the district received official notification from the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that HSSD had been released from Coordinated Literacy Support, a testament to the hard work of our staff and the growth of our students.
- Our Gifted & Talented (GT) program was honored by the Office of Education Policy for having the Best Growth Scores in 2024. Our GT students showed the most growth compared to programs of similar size across the state.
- Oaklawn STEM Magnet School was recognized as a Promising Practice School, highlighting innovative approaches that support student learning and success.

In addition to these honors, we celebrated the successful opening of the new Hot Springs World Class High School facility and continued success in fine arts and athletics. We also saw tremendous student leadership and community involvement across all campuses.

Looking ahead, we are excited to begin the 2025-2026 school year under the theme “Make Every Day Count.” This theme serves as a reminder to us all—students, staff, families, and community members—that each day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and make a meaningful difference. We are energized by what lies ahead and remain committed to strong partnerships with our families and community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Hot Springs School District. Together, we are building a brighter future—one day at a time.

With appreciation,

Dr. Mike Hernandez

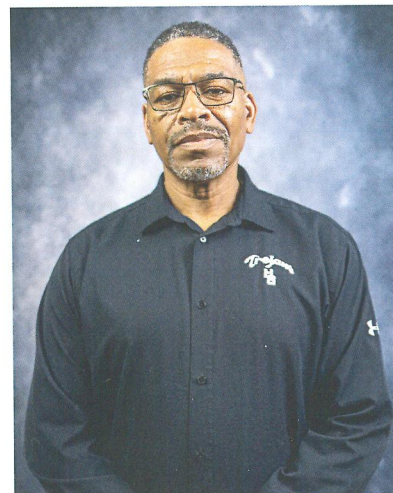
Mission: *The mission of the HSSD is to educate and empower each student to graduate from high school college and/or career ready, respect diversity, and to be contributing members of a global society.*



HSSD SCHOOL BOARD



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





ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mike Hernandez Superintendent



Dr. Miguel (Mike) Hernandez is the Superintendent of the Hot Springs School District, returning to the role he previously held from 2015 - 2017 on July 1, 2025. In this role, he leads an organization that has a core mission of educating and empowering each student to graduate from high school, college, and/or career-ready, respect diversity, and to be contributing members of a global society. He is actively engaged in the education community, identifying, developing, and leveraging resources to assist districts and students.

Dr. Hernandez previously served as the Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. Before this, he served at the Arkansas Department of Education in a variety of positions, including State Superintendent for the Office of Coordinated Support and Service and Deputy Commissioner. He also served as Assistant Commissioner over Fiscal Services. Dr. Hernandez has also served as Superintendent of the Danville School District. He began his administrative career as a Principal of the Western Yell County High School. Dr. Hernandez received his B.S. from the University of New Orleans, an M.A. from the University of Central Arkansas in Mathematics, an M.A. from Harding University, and his doctorate from Harding University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Hernandez lives in Hot Springs with his wife, Susan, and three girls, Sophie, Olivia, and Josie.



Dr. Taryn Echols Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Taryn Echols, who has been with the HSSD for 11 years, serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. She has 17 years of educational experience as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and principal. She serves on the Arkansas Association of Curriculum and Instruction Administrators Board. She was awarded the AACIA Administrator of the Year award for the 2020-2021 school year. She serves on the National Park College Foundation Board and Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Board. Dr. Echols earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Harding University, a Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership P-20 from Harding University. She is married to Rodney Echols, Director of Athletics, Maintenance, and Transportation for the HSSD and they have two children.



Becky Rosburg Assistant Superintendent

Becky Rosburg serves as Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital and Federal Programs. She oversees the hiring of personnel and federal programs. Mrs. Rosburg is a proud graduate of the District and has served the HSSD for the past 29 years. She began her career as a 5th-grade teacher at Langston Elementary and has also served as a curriculum facilitator at Park Magnet and building principal at Hot Springs Intermediate School. She holds a Bachelor's in elementary education, a Master's in building leadership and an educational specialist degree in district administration along with her superintendent's license. She and her husband, Mark, have two grown sons, who are both graduates of the Hot Springs School District, and three grandchildren.



DISTRICT STATS

SIZE AND ENROLLMENT

- 3,516 Students.
- 29th Largest District in Arkansas.
- 2nd Largest District in Garland County.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ALL PRE-K-6TH)

- Langston Elementary Leadership Academy
- Main Street Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School
- Oaklawn STEM Magnet School
- Park Magnet, an IB World School

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- Hot Springs Junior Academy (Grades 7-9)
- Hot Springs World Class High School (Grades 10-12)

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- Student Diversity:
34.6% African American, 32% White,
20.3% Hispanic, 13.1% Other)
- Home Languages Spoken: 17

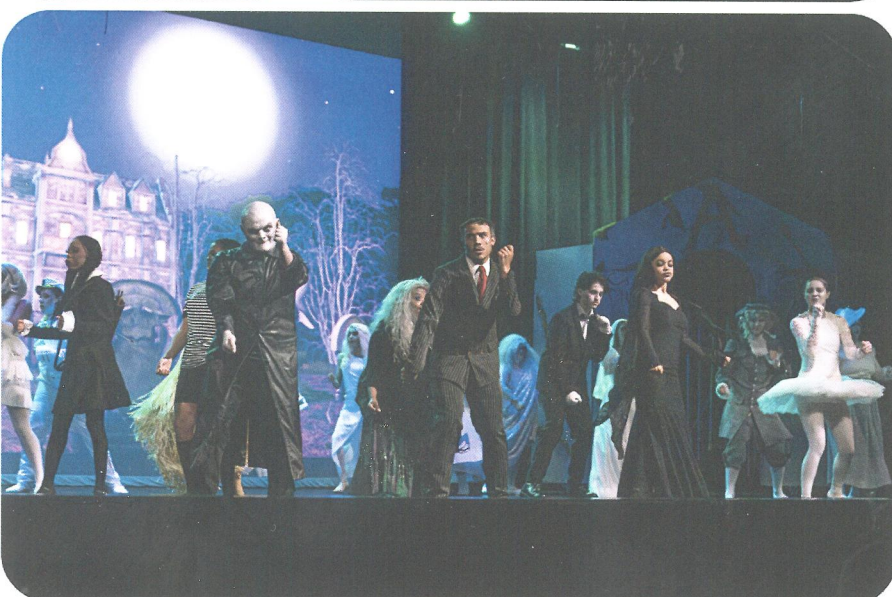
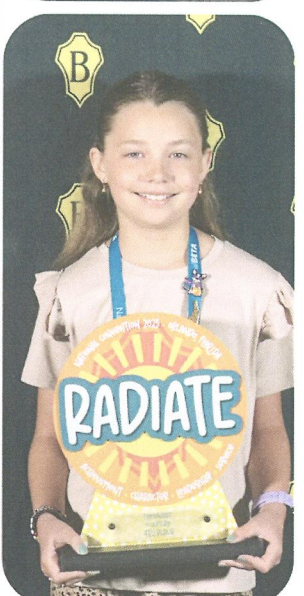
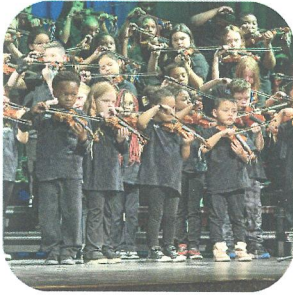
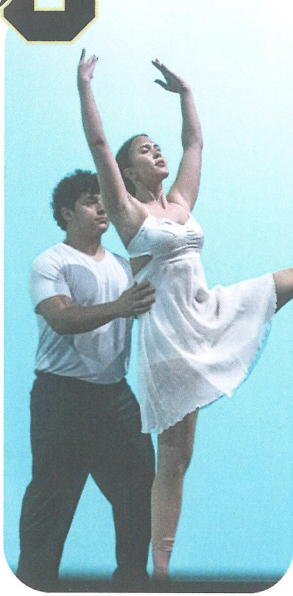
STAFF

- HSSD employs 496 staff members, and is a Top 10 Employer in Garland County.
- Student/Teacher Ratio: 12:1
- 45% of HSSD educators hold advanced degrees.

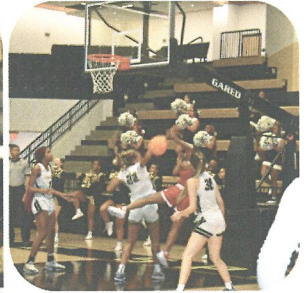
MOTTO

**We are Diverse. Dedicated.
Unified. A Place for Everyone!**

ARTS AND ACTIVITIES



ATHLETICS





PROFILE OF A TROJAN GRADUATE



THINKERS

Actively engage in critical and creative thought to explore, make decisions, and consider others' views.

RESILIENT

Bounce back from adversity; adapt and thrive despite challenges, setbacks, and hardships.

OPEN-MINDED

Receptive to diverse ideas and willing to consider new perspectives; avoid rigid thinking.

JOB-READY

Possess the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude to excel in their chosen profession.

ADAPTABLE

Demonstrate the capacity to quickly adjust and thrive in various professional and personal situations.

NURTURING

Embrace diversity and foster growth, empathy, and concern for all, creating an inclusive and supportive environment.

CLASS OF 2025 HAD 248 GRADUATES

Seniors graduating
with value added
diploma

83%



Amount of
scholarships
awarded

\$6 million





HOT SPRINGS WORLD CLASS HIGH SCHOOL



**Principal
Kiley Simms**



**Assistant Principal
Jason Quast**

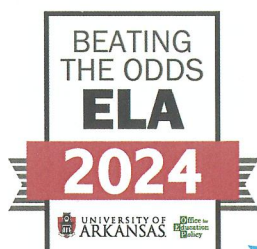
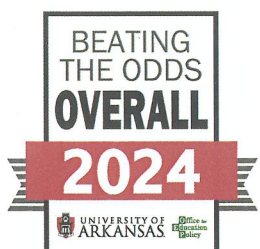
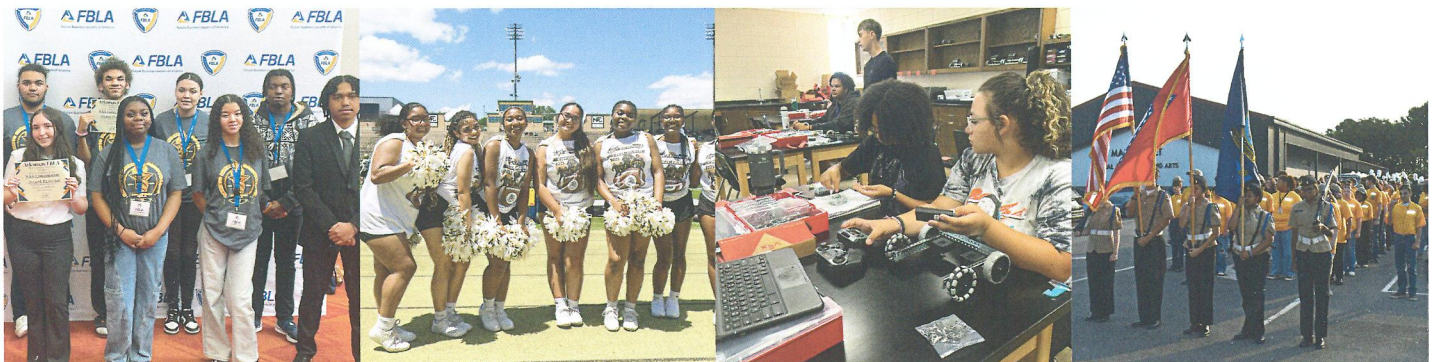


**Assistant Principal
Sarah Turner**

The Hot Springs World Class High School, located at 821 Emory, is a 10th - 12th grade campus. The mission of the HSWCHS is to empower all students to learn at high levels to graduate prepared for success in a global society.

The HSWCHS offers complete career pathways in three career academies with intentional areas of study. The academies include Liberal Studies (International Baccalaureate Programme), Business and Industrial Technologies, and Education and Healthcare. Within these three academies are more than 20 unique pathways from which students choose coursework relevant to a future career.

In 2025, 248 students graduated from HSWCHS, with 83% earning a value-added diploma. The graduating class included 201 Career and Technical Education (CTE) completers, 126 Arts completers, and 17 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidates.





HOT SPRINGS JUNIOR ACADEMY



**Principal
Kristal Brandon**



**Assistant Principal
Tony Hines**

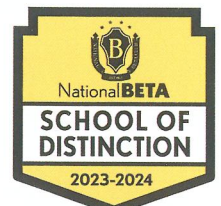
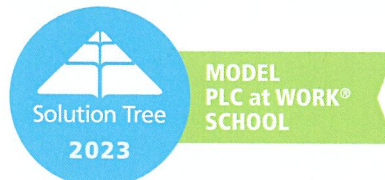
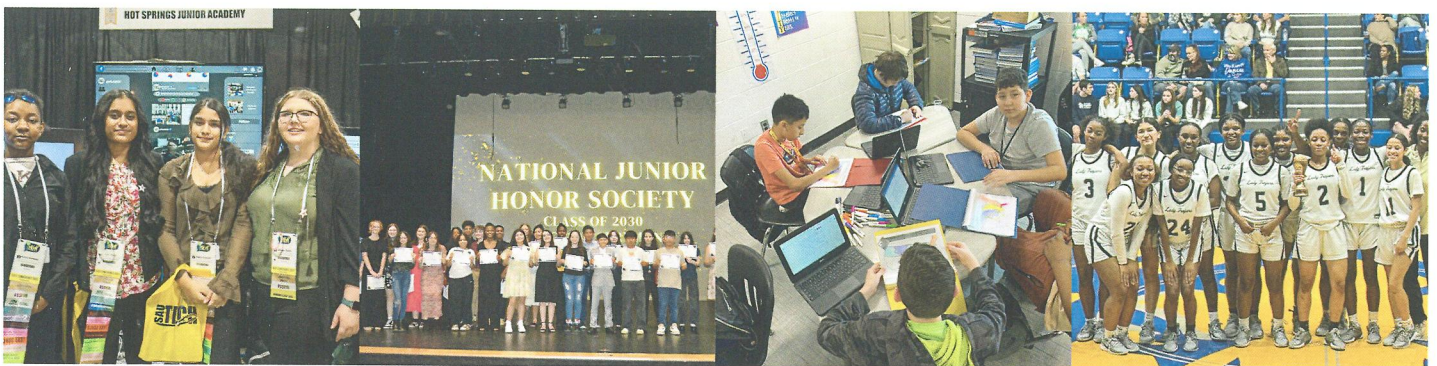


**Assistant Principal
Kate Neighbors**

The Hot Springs Junior Academy, located at 401 Emory, is a 7th - 9th grade campus. The mission of HSJA is to ensure high levels of learning for all students to compete in a global society.

The HSJA proudly offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP), which is among the most rigorous college preparatory programs available and emphasizes intellectual challenge.

The HSJA also works to integrate career exploration in all core classes. It is the intent to provide all students with an opportunity to learn the various options they have for careers beyond school-age years. The HSJA allows for career exploration and experiences that prepare students for various career pathways.





LANGSTON ELEMENTARY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



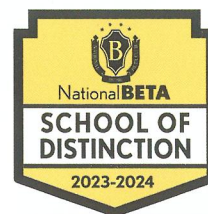
**Principal
Dr. Kyria Wilson**



**Assistant Principal
Eric Lenox**

Langston Elementary Leadership Academy, located at 300 Silver Street, is dedicated to nurturing every student into a confident leader. The mission is clear: EVERY leader learns leadership skills and educational standards at HIGH levels every day.

Langston Elementary Leadership Academy is committed to fostering both academic excellence and strong leadership skills in its students. A hallmark of the Langston experience is the 6th-grade trip to Washington, D.C., where students have the unique opportunity to explore the nation's capital, visit historical landmarks, and deepen their understanding of American history and government. This culminating experience not only broadens their perspectives but also reinforces classroom learning in a powerful, real-world setting. Through opportunities like this, Langston Elementary continues to excel in providing exceptional education and leadership development, preparing students to succeed as engaged, informed citizens.





MAIN STREET VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL



**Principal
Kristen Gordon**



**Assistant Principal
Ben Iverson**

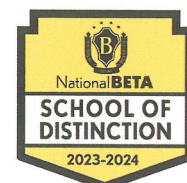
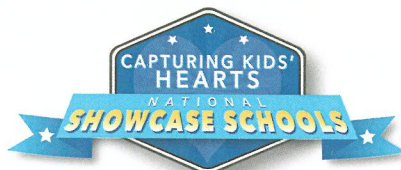
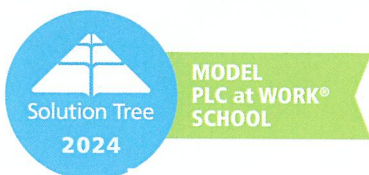


**Assistant Principal
Kelly Clawitter**

Main Street Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School, located at 701 Main Street, is renowned for offering drama, art, and music to students in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

The mission of Main Street is to ensure high levels of growth and learning for all. Students enjoy a Magnet School experience that ensures a high quality education enriched by visual and performing arts opportunities and electives including an annual Junior Broadway production, choir, show choir, orchestra, band, jazz, tap, ballet, hands-on art activities and production, and more.

In April 2024, Main Street was awarded Model PLC at Work status for a second time. Main Street was recognized for its sustained success in raising student achievement. The school's successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities at Work[®] process was a major contributing factor in the improved achievement of its students.





OAKLAWN STEM MAGNET SCHOOL



**Principal
Nikki Anderson**

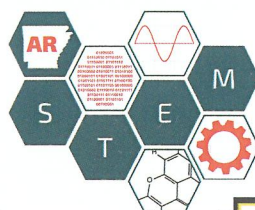


**Assistant Principal
Joie Trejo**

Oaklawn STEM Magnet School, located at 301 Oaklawn Boulevard, is dedicated to providing a stimulating and supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The mission of Oaklawn STEM is to ensure that our school community is engaged and empowered to excel in all things.

With a strong focus on hands-on learning and real-world applications, Oaklawn STEM Magnet School prepares its students to meet the challenges of the 21st century with confidence and competence.

Oaklawn STEM Magnet has earned a STEM Model School designation for 2024-2027. By integrating STEM principles across all subjects, Oaklawn ensures that every student is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing world.





PARK MAGNET, AN IB WORLD SCHOOL



**Principal
Marissa Burton**



**Assistant Principal
Ashlee Curtis**

The mission of Park Magnet, located at 617 Main Street, is to foster an engaged global learning community with high levels of learning for all through inquiry and reflection.

Park Magnet is an IB World School, which means it offers curriculum through the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme. IB is one of the most prestigious international curriculum frameworks available, and is designed to challenge students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their learning as they explore local and global issues and opportunities in real-life contexts. Park Magnet is among the only schools in Arkansas to offer the inquiry-based teaching style and rigorous curriculum in the PYP.

Park Magnet remains among Arkansas' top elementary schools based on ESSA School Index scores from the Arkansas Department of Education.





HSSD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Heidi Fought-Strong
District Teacher of
the Year



Louise Keithley
Hot Springs World
Class High School



Heidi Fought-Strong
Main Street Visual &
Performing Arts
Magnet School



Marie Fields-Chism
Hot Springs
Junior Academy



Ami Herrington
Oaklawn STEM
Magnet School



Bethany Rice
Langston Elementary
Leadership Academy



Grace Rodriguez
Park Magnet, an IB
World School



2024 – 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

- A brand-new high school opened on July 24, 2025, the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Demolition on the old high school, which had opened in 1968, began on June 23, 2025, and Phase II of the project officially began. This includes soccer fields, tennis courts, and a tornado safe room.
- The Hot Springs Dance Troupe traveled to Europe in June 2025 to perform as part of the Stars of Tomorrow International Tour. They performed seven shows and visited eight cities.
- A total of 248 students graduated from the Hot Springs World Class High School on May 8.
- Coach Larry McDaniel was selected as Coach of the Year for the Arkansas Special Olympics.
- Officer Graves was named as the Hot Springs School District Police Department Employee of the Year.
- Heidi Faught-Strong was named Hot Springs School District Teacher of the Year. She was among the 15 finalists for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year.
- Eighteen students received the Seal of Biliteracy.
- HSWCHS was 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.
- Seven HSSD Destination Imagination teams earned a spot at the Global Finals held in Kansas City, MO, in May. Teams represent HSWCHS, HSJA, LELA, OSTEM, and MVPA.
- HSWCHS Choir earned a Superior I State Qualifier award at the Region 3 Choral Performance Assessment.
- 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.
- The HSSD GT program was honored with an Office of Education Policy Best Growth Scores in 2024 award. These GT students showed the most growth compared to other programs with the same number of students across the state.
- Six HSWCHS students made the All-Region Band, with three 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.
- The 9th-grade Trojans and Lady Trojans won the 5A South Conference Championships in basketball.
- Angela Millard, OSTEM Counselor, was named the ARSCA Southwest Elementary Counselor of the Year.
- The HSSD received official notification from DESE that it has been released from Coordinated Literacy Support in January 2025.
- The Trojan Varsity Football Team received the Award of Excellence for an Ejection-Free Season for Football 2024.
- The 9th-grade Boys Basketball Team WON the 4th Annual Hot Springs Basketball Tournament.
- Two HSWCHS students matched with Questbridge. Zaria Grant plans to attend Columbia University, and Tyrell George plans to attend the University of Colorado.
- Beta Students from all six of our schools attended the Beta Leadership Summit in October 2024 and had students qualify to compete at the National Beta Convention in Orlando, Florida in June 2025.
- The Junior High football team earned the 5A conference championship. In addition, the 6th-grade Trojans won the Pee Wee Conference Championship and played in a Super Bowl. The 5th-grade Trojans won their Pee Wee Conference Championship and lost in the JV Pee Wee Super Bowl.
- HSWCHS Teacher Chad Hall and Langston Teacher Bethany Rice received \$500 checks through Arvest Bank's seventh annual "We Love Teachers" campaign.
- HSWCHS senior Tyrell George was named one of 50 "Distinguished Computer Science Students" in Arkansas.
- The HSSD Police Department launched the Men of Troy, a volunteer opportunity to mentor students in the HSSD. They held their first meeting on August 13, 2024.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Welcome Center



The HSSD Welcome Center, located at 702 Main Street, is a warm and welcoming space designed to support our students and families. Housed in a renovated, comfortable home, the center offers a wide range of helpful services and resources for families in our district. Our full-time staff is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., to assist with anything you may need. We also have translators on site to support students and parents who need help with language.

Families can access a clothing and food pantry, computers with free WiFi, showers and restrooms, a washer and dryer, and a cozy sitting area with toys for young children. All services are completely free.

We encourage families to call ahead before visiting to make sure the resources they need are available. To contact the Welcome Center, call 501-620-7815.

Men of Troy

The Men of Troy program, launched in the fall of 2024 by the Hot Springs School District's Police Department, focuses on mentoring, outreach, and service, with the goal of bringing more positive male role models into our schools and the community.

To support the Men of Troy initiative, community members can donate raffle items, become a T-shirt sponsor, or make financial contributions. For more information, contact Chief Carl Seymour at 501-624-5286 or menoftroy@hssd.net.



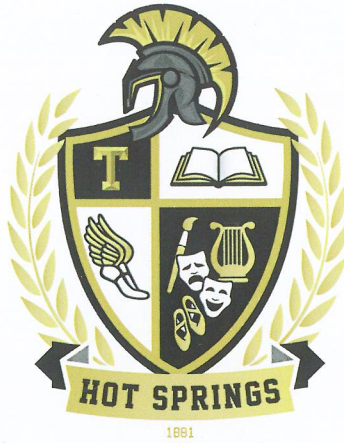
Pictured from left to right, Officer McCrary Means, Officer Daniel Dankert, Officer Stephone Moss, Officer Benny Rowe, Officer Jason Graves, Chief Carl Seymour and Officer Jonathan Langston with HSSD Students.



COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS

The Hot Springs School District is committed to:

- » Preparing lifelong learners for the 21st century
- » Providing a safe, supportive environment with state-of-the-art facilities
- » Hiring and retaining the best teachers and staff
- » Promoting a culture of integrity, dignity, and fairness
 - » Fostering high levels of expectations and achievement for ALL
- » Supplying relevant curriculum and resources for students to gain knowledge, skills, and confidence
- » Engaging families and serving the community



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HSSD_Trojans