

Bobcat Tracks

A publication of the Hope Public Schools



Major initiatives mark first half

The first half of the 2017-2018 academic year in the Hope Public School District has been marked by the completion of major construction and the introduction of a major academic initiative.



Beryl Henry Elementary campus expansion

Beryl Henry Elementary students have already put a new computer laboratory, library, arts room, music rooms, innovation room, core classrooms, and gymnasium to use learning computer coding, the Dewey Decimal System; how to conceptualize a robot, play an instrument, learn



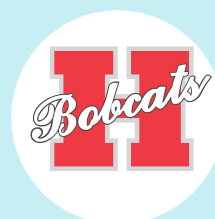
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Holidays set for Hope schools

All campuses will observe the Christmas holiday break Dec. 25 - Jan. 5. Classes resume on Jan. 8, 2018.

choral presentations, and get more exercise in a \$4 million expansion to the BHE campus.

The 25,000- square foot academic addition to the BHE campus was under construction for about a year, requiring the removal of a significant amount of fill, the cutting of a number of pine trees, and the demolition of metal buildings which had been used as classroom space for some 30-40 years. The project allowed the construction of additional parking on the campus, as well as the redesign of the main entrance and the installation of an electronic security system throughout the campus.

With students and faculty anxious to move into the new quarters and reclaim parts of the campus landscape, the project came to fruition in time for the beginning of classes this year. The project provided for an expanded computer science program and the re-establishment of a “beginner” band program, as well as expansion of interdisciplinary activities in the “innovation” room. The 3,000-square foot “multipurpose” room serves as a campus gymnasium and a “community safe room” for hazardous weather conditions.

Collegiate and Career Academy Proposal

The second major initiative this year began to take shape in September with the opening of discussions between the Hope Public Schools Board and the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Board of Visitors concerning the establishment of a conversion charter collegiate and career academy on the UA-Hope campus. The two boards met in an informational session on Sept. 28 to outline the proposal.

The proposal calls for the development of a grades 10-12 academy with classes taught exclusively by UAHT faculty, and housed in the former academic space of the Johnny Rapert Library Complex on the UA Hope campus. A pre-planned course of study is to be developed for each student, with students also integrated into regular college classes on a limited basis.

The course of study is proposed to produce a Hope High School diploma and a UAHT associate’s degree or certification at the end of three years. HHS students segue into the full course of study through AP/honors classes and some dual college credit courses in the tenth grade. The final two years consist of dual credit classes and regular college study under the model.

Formal development of the model and approval of the proposal by the Arkansas Board of Education and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education are still to be completed. Both will require about a year to develop and complete, according to the plan. Depending upon the development of the plan, a limited “pilot” class might be possible in the Fall, 2018, according to UAHT Chancellor Chris Thomason.

“At every juncture of our history, there has been the importance of our partnership with the Hope Public Schools,” Thomason said. “This is an exceptional model we are developing for Arkansas.”

BOBCAT P.A.W.S.



People

Kathryn Dickinson is the newest member of the Hope Public Schools Board. Dickinson, the wife of the late Denver L. “Denny” Dickinson, was appointed to serve in Zone 6 until the next general board election. She was a classroom teacher and administrator in the HPSD for 37 years.



Awards

Eighteen Hope High School students were awarded membership in the National Honor Society in a November ceremony, including Joanna Archiga, Alan Castro, Andria Curtis, Allysa Fincher, Mayra Garcia, Shelbie Godwin, Chris Haywood, Zoie Hollis, Zymesha Lee, Christian Lowe, Hanna McCorkle, Stephnique Morris, Angela Nava, Beatriz Nava, Natalie Phillips, Kelsey Reedy, Hector Reyna, and Zahria Woods.



Wins

The Hope High School Robotics Team won the “It’s Alive” award at its first outing of 2017, placing fifth overall among 21 teams. The team traveled to Little Rock for the BEST Robotics Competition, and was able to overcome some glitches to make a comeback in the final rounds of the contest.



Successes

Students at Clinton Primary School donated more than 1,400 canned goods to benefit the Thanksgiving pantry at Hope In Action. The third and fourth grade classes spearheaded the drive, collected the food items and saw that they were delivered to HIA. The group rolled up to the HIA offices on Third Street, got off the bus, and hand-carried all 28 boxes, plus bags, into the HIA pantry.

CAMPUSES

What's positive on the campuses of the Hope Public School District?

Noble Impact Begins

Students at Yerger Middle School are learning to become leaders as they learn about their impact upon the community.

The Noble Impact Program at Yerger Middle School affords access and opportunity for students, beginning with relevant and rigorous curriculum and application opportunities.

The process, according to sponsor Stephonia Terry, is one that is designed to promote character, academic success, high ideals, moral principles, and hope.

"The new Noble Impact classes at Yerger Middle School are hope in action," Terry said.

The inaugural year of Noble Impact is offered in four sections at YMS. The program is presented as an elective class that is steeped in college and career readiness, Terry said. Objectives of the class include: 1) Create a digital footprint. 2) Create a personal resume. 3) Learn proper business etiquette. 4) Provide service leadership. 5) Develop leadership skills.

Noble Impact students have already recognized first responders, participated in a food drive for Hope In Action, collected donations for Hurricane Harvey victims, and participated in a clean up at Hope Fair Park.

Hope Schools Vision...

...World Class Students, World Class Learning, World Class Citizens.

Hope Schools Mission...

The mission of the Hope Public Schools is to provide all students a quality education through the collaborative efforts of the schools, families, and all stakeholders to create productive citizens in our ever-changing society.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Wow! December is here. Time has flown by during this school year. In the past four months, our district has seen an increase in student achievement, the completion of a campus construction project, improvements in teaching and learning, and so much more.



HPS Supt.
Bobby Hart

Our district is moving forward, and our next major step is the creation of our Hope Collegiate and Career Academy. This program will allow students to graduate with college credit and/or a pathway to a high wage, high demand career. We hope our students, parents, and the community will get behind this program and help us prove that Hope Public Schools is the place to be in 2018 and into the future.

BOBCAT TRACKS is a publication of the Hope Public Schools.
Ken McLemore, Editor

