900 Bearcat Drive, Ruston, Louisiana 71270

http://rustonhigh.lincolnschools.org/pages/chatterbox.php

Chatterbox: The Voice of Ruston High School

You may contact Chatterbox at chatterbox@lincolnschools.org if you have suggestions or comments.



# RHS Principal's Message

Hello Bearcats!!! We have finally made it to the 2nd semester! What a great first semester we had! Thank you for working hard, supporting your fellow classmates, and representing Ruston High School in a positive way.

As we get into the 3rd nine weeks please keep that same energy. We need you to keep supporting basketball, cheer, powerlifting, band, choir, track, tennis, Eco Car and every activity our Bearcats are involved in. Make sure you make attending school every day a priority.

I look forward to a great 2nd semester and I appreciate all you do! Go Bearcats!



# Student Council President's Message Happy New Year to each of you! Can you believe that we are over halfway through the 2022-23 school year?

In sports, soccer is wrapping up, basketball is in full swing, and golf has begun along with track. In the academic arena, literary rally will be coming up soon and seniors are working hard to get those scholarships and admittances for college.

With the beginning of a new year, many people turn to New Year's resolutions. The top five most popular resolutions from one study are: exercise more, 2) lose weight, 3) get organized, 4) learn a new skill or hobby, and 5) live life to the fullest.

What is your resolution for the new year? It can be something as small as meeting three new classmates you did not know before or thanking a different teacher or admin once a month for all they do at Ruston High School. If you see me around school, let me know what you are resolving to do in 2023! I would love to hear your thoughts.

## **Ruston High School Store**

**Sales Benefit Ruston High School** 

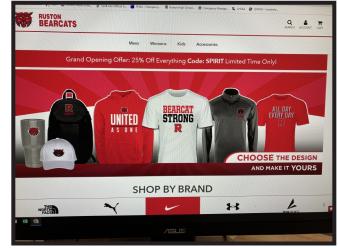
Information Provided by Mr. Dustin Serpas/ Assistant Principal

Ruston High School announces that the school has established a site where Bearcat Nation can purchase almost any kind of Bearcat wear that they wish. Anyone can go online and purchase their choice of items in various colors and designs, simply by going to <a href="https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/louisiana/ruston/ruston-high-school">https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/louisiana/ruston/ruston-high-school</a>.

All purchases made will be sent to wherever the buyer wishes, so in addition to ordering merchandise for yourself, buyers can go online and have the items shipped to family and friends. The store allows buyers the option to select different brands, colors, and artwork.

All sales on the site benefit RHS as well. For the grand opening of the store, buyers will receive 25% off on their total purchases. All sales will benefit RHS programs as well as the school will collect a percentage of profits to be determined based on sales. Please show your Bearcat Pride and order all your Bearcat Nation needs from the store, and pass this information

along to your family and friends.



### Bearcats Did You Know.....

those with special needs.

- \* Mrs. Wages, the RHS Powerlifting Coach, lifted in the Powerlifting America Bench Nationals in Reno, Nevada, finishing all three attempts, and medaling in the Masters 1 weight class. This qualified her for the IPF World Bench Press Meet that will be held in May in Sun City, South Africa.
- \* Freshman Melissa Le placed in the top 5 at the recent Miss Louisiana Teen Volunteer Pageant!
- \* Freshman Melissa Le then captured the crown as Miss Louisiana Stockshow's Outstanding Teen! \* Hannah Reeder participated in the Miss Twin Cities Outstanding Teen and won!
- Hannah Reeder will next compete in Miss Louisiana's Outstanding Teen in April!
- \* Callie Stegall was named a Princess for the Krewe of Pomona 2023 in their inaugural year! \* Lane Spurlock and Lorelei Freling were Rotary Students of the Month for RHS!
- \* There will be a special prom held on Friday, February 10, 2023, at the Louisiana Tech Student Center. The special theme for this prom is "Night to Shine" for celebrating
- \* A new uniform store has opened so students can get uniform t-shirts and sweatshirts until January 27, 2023. Note that the store closes tomorrow, so get your orders in as soon as possible. This can be found at https://stores.inksoft.com/Ruston High School 22-23 Round 4/shop/home.
- \* RHS FBLA is hosting a Design Contest where students are challenged to create a business logo. To enter and for details, join the AEP Google classroom, or see Ms.
- Lewis in room 322. \* The RHS Prom will be held April 15, 2023 at the Ruston Library Event Center. Contracts will be available on March 6, 2023, and tickets for the prom will go on sale at
- the end of March 2023.
- \* FAFSA is a state requirement for graduation and seniors must complete this.
- \* Guidance has scholarship opportunities for seniors that require applications to be completed soon. See Mrs. White in guidance and listen daily for announcements. \* Competition Cheer has a GoFundMe to help with their costs to compete at Nationals. To support them, please go to <a href="https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://ht b0761
- Spring Testing is right around the corner. This year, the test cycle will be covered in 3 sessions. Session 1 will be held on April 18-20, 2023, 08:00-10:00 a.m., testing in
- ELA1/ELA2/US history. Session 2 will be held on April 25-27, 2023, 08:00 10:00 a.m., testing in Algebra/Geometry. Session 3 will be held on May 9-11, 2023, 08:00-10:00 a.m. testing in Biology. Stay tuned for further details.
- \* Chatterbox is published monthly and provides Bearcat Nation with all Bearcat news and more as known. They are currently seeking a new adviser as Mr. Bruner will be retiring this year. See Mr. Dan Gressett, the RHS principal, if you are interested in taking over the newspaper and keeping "the voice of Ruston High" heard next year.

## Chatterbox Seeks Adviser/Staff for Next Year & Articles



All of Bearcat nation is reminded that Chatterbox is your newspaper and that we want to publish your news and information. Sponsors, advisers, coaches, and students may all submit articles for consideration. If the information is relative to any aspect of Ruston High, it will be published as available based on the timing of the newspaper. The dates that articles are due are printed below, as are our next publication dates.

Students are invited to submit articles, poems, information about perhaps you own entrepreneur skills, art, cartoons, etc. This is a student newspaper, and Chatterbox encourages more students to get involved and let Bearcat Nation know more about all students.

Chatterbox is also searching for a new adviser to take over publication starting next year. If you are interested in becoming the adviser for Chatterbox next year, please inform Mr. Dan Gressett, RHS principal. If you are a student and interested in becoming a staff member, visit Mr. Lloyd R. Bruner in Room 243 to be added to the staff list for next year.

# Bearcat Bite

Feb. 10, 2023 - Prom (Night to Shine)

**Support of RHS Bearcat Sports Playing towards** the Playoffs at this time:

> Boys' Basketball Girls' Basketball **Boys' Soccer** Girls' Soccer

#### Chatterbox 2022-2023 Publication Plan

## Published Online in Google Classrooms

ARTICLE DEADLINE **PUBLICATION DATE** February 16, 2023 February 23, 2023 March 16, 2023 March 23, 2023 April 13, 2023 April 20, 2023 May 11, 2023 May 18, 2023

Bearcats students, faculty, and staff are invited to join share Chatterbox through any media source.

Chatterbox is the official newspaper of Ruston High School, "the Voice of Ruston High." Chatterbox. Chatterbox is published monthly on the Ruston High School webpage under Student Life and emailed to all faculty and staff. Sharing is encouraged.

The purpose of Chatterbox is to promote Ruston High School and allow students the opportunity to explore journalism and share the abilities and ideas. Please send any comments or submissions for print to chatterbox@lincolnschools.org.

















# **Ruston High School News**



**January 26, 2023** 

Page 2

## **Student Council Supports MedCamps**

Information Provided by Ms. Ashely Bell/ Student Council Advisor

The Student Council at Rutson High School (RHS) recently conducted a jeans day to raise funds for MedCamps of Ruston. For those who are unfamiliar with this organization, MedCamps of Ruston is a local organization that provides summer camp opportunities for children with certain illnesses and disabilities. Their mission is to improve the health and wellness of people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities through unique recreational and educational camping experiences.

On December 16, 2022, the Student Council presented Caleb Seney, CEO of Medcamps with a check for over \$1500 raised by our Homecoming Jeans pass fundraiser. (Pictured left).



## Intro to Engineering Design Students Visit Louisiana Tech

Information Submitted by Mrs. Susan Williams/ Teacher

Students from Mrs. Susan Williams' two Introduction to Engineering Design, an engineering elective at Ruston High School (RHS), recently made a visit to Louisiana Tech University, along with students from Choudrant High School and Simsboro High School. The trip was originally scheduled for December 9, 2022, but was graciously rescheduled to December 16, 2022.

Louisiana Tech University, located right here in Ruston, Louisiana, is known for several colleges within the university structure. Among these, the College of Engineering and Science is one of the colleges that receives national recognition. The College of Engineering and Science offers several undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as online courses and certifications.

Students were able to attend many events while attended the visit. Students received a guest speech live from Dr. Guice despite the change in dates. They were also able to watch a YouTube video of guest speaker Nate Burkhalter of No Limits Warrior and videos from others who had previously given speeches for this visit the week prior. Students attending heard from many of the disciplines and organizations within the College of Engineering and Science, and were also able to participate in various activities led by them.

After being provided lunch, students were also given a campus tour of Louisiana Tech University and were able to see all that Louisiana Tech University had to offer for those interested in engineering and any other majors offered. The tour concluded with a visit to the 16th floor of Wiley Tower.





### **SHARP CATS**

#### RHS Freshman Academy Recognizes November and December Sharp Cats

The Ruston High School Freshman Academy is proud to recognize some of our outstanding students each month by naming them Ruston High Sharp Cats. The academy faculty feels that honoring exceptional students is an important part of supporting and encouraging our freshmen.

The Freshman Academy has four teams of students, and at the end of each month, two students from each team are nominated by their teachers to join the ranks of the Sharp Cats.

Through their accomplishments, the students selected for this program have set an outstanding example in some aspect of campus life. Some students have exhibited an

Through their accomplishments, the students selected for this program have set an outstanding example in some aspect of campus life. Some students have exhibited an intense rigor for academics or demonstrated their love of learning. Some have enhanced their grade point average standing while others have shown exemplary attitudes and behavior. They are determined to learn and genuinely lead and inspire others on our campus. It is with great pride that we present to you these students...for they are truly Sharp Cats!

We are so proud of our freshmen, and we hope that you will join us in our appreciation of these extraordinary students: Jacob Miller, Melissa Le, Jnlyn Knighten, Gabe Houston, Brynn Reger, Ren Nishi, Darius Woods, Kimberly Simon-Ajanel, Amaya Major, James Peterson, Ja'Sarah Green, John David Green, Trinity Williams, John Fagan, Marquis Turner, and Ashley Hernandez



rspired





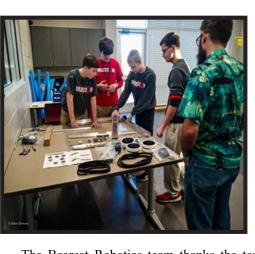










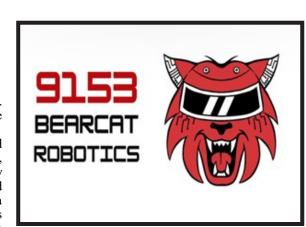


### **Bearcat Robotics Team**

New Club/ Competing Soon Submitted by Jacob Baxter/ *Robotics Team* 

Ruston High has founded a new club--the Bearcat Robotics team. Currently, the Bearcat Robotics team is 21 members strong, and will be competing in the first robotics competition.

The Bearcat Robotics team is led by many devoted teachers and advisers. These include Mrs. Sarah Wages, Mr. Matthew MacDaniels, Mrs. Annie Rivera, and Ms. Kristin Bryan. They have been assisted by some other team players such as their team adviser, Gustave Michel, and various parents as well. To top the list is Mr. Chuck, who has also been a great help for the team. Mr. Chuck writes the rules concerning what is allowed on the robots and has allowed the team to visit his team 456 in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

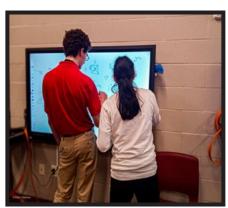


The Bearcat Robotics team thanks the teachers, supporters, and sponsors, to include Champion Technology and NASA. The team looks forward to their continued contributions and to new offers from our community. The members of Bearcat Robotics ask for your support as they prepare to embark on their first ever competition this upcoming March.









# **Bearcat Robotics Team in Action**



# **Ruston High School Clubs**



**January 26, 2023** 

Page 3



## FBLA Leadership Retreat 2022

Submitted by Lainey Bowen/RHS FBLA Reporter

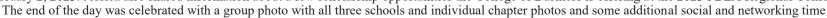
Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Chapter 617 assembled at the Gospel Inc. along with the Choudrant and Simsboro FBLA chapters on December 15, 2022 for the 5th annual FBLA Leadership Retreat. The retreat was led by Mrs. Jennifer Ham and RHS Primary Adviser Ms. Dori Lewis.

FBLA members worked on many leadership skills and team building activities throughout the day. We discussed how valuable the Business Achievement Awards (BAA) are to participate in; tips on getting in the top 10 for competitive events; methods of accessing

vital FBLA resources online; and other leadership challenges they can participate in through FBLA National. Team building exercises allowed all the members present to network and form friendships that will carry over to regional, state and national conferences. One exercise showed the future professionals how failure is normal and we just keep working on the process and that sometimes we have to start over. Strategies for competitive events were also presented, and members were allowed an opportunity to ask questions about preparing for different competitive events.

Special guests were Ms. Pam Allen Director for the Center for the Blind. The RHS FBLA chapter community service project for this year is working with the Center for the Blind on various levels, and learning more about how the center serves the community. Ms. Pam answered questions from the members after discussing all the wonderful things the Center for the Blind does for its clients and the services they provide. She also passed out cards where members had to decode Braille.

Afterwards, Ms. Jessica Brown from LaTech College of Business also spoke to members about the FBLA Regional Conference that will be held on their campus on February 2, 2023. Jessica also shared information about a few scholarship opportunities the College of Business is offering at the 2023 FBLA Regional Conference.











# eadershi









## **FACS Participates in Service Project**

**Assists Ronald McDonald House Information Provided by Mrs. Kandi Hammons** 

FACS Club chose the Ronald McDonald House as a service project. Each member brought cleaning supplies for the home to assist the families of patients who stay at the facility.

The Ronald McDonald is a home away from home to parents of young children who are in St. Francis Medical Center. Some of our teachers and families at Ruston High School (RHS) have stayed in these homes away from home in the past, so this project took on even me meaning.

Our club toured the facility as well as learning the history behind the Ronald McDonald house. We also received a history lesson at Biedenharn Museum and Gardens, which





## FFA Plants for the Season

Information Provided by Mr. Antonio Wilson/ FFA Advisor

Winter is no quite over but many people around the country are already looking at Spring and the flowers that they will be planting as they do every year. This is not lost on the Ruston High School FFA, who annually plants flowers ahead of time to sale and distribute to those who need and want them. FFA students in Ag 2 have been working hard to plant flowers for their upcoming plant sale. Students planted over 500 plants during their Ag classes. Getting their hands dirty, the FFA members have been learning valuable skills to help them in the future. If you have flower needs for the Spring, be sure to check with FFA and see if they have the flowers for you.







# RHS FBLA Week: Feb. 5 - 11, 2023



## FBLA Week 2023!

Submitted by Lainey Bowen, RHS FBLA Reporter

National FBLA Week for 2023 is just around the corner! From February 5 – 11, 2023, the Ruston High School (RHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Chapter 617, will run a social media campaign with different themes for each day of the week!

Bearcats - be on the lookout for member spotlights including achievements, chapter events, and pictures including the chapter! Please show your support on our Instagram page in the coming weeks @bearcatsfbla!





# **Ruston High School Organizations & Arts**



Page 4

January 26, 2023

## **RHS Band Members Excel**

10 Members Earn District One Band Director's **Association Honor Band** Information Provided by Mr. Walter Moss/ Director of Bands

Band members throughout north Louisiana recently tried out for the honor of representing themselves and their respective bands at the District One Band Director's Association Honor Band. The competition was fierce as the level of talent is high, and RHS band members played their best to earn the distinction. The result

was that 10 members of the RHS band earned the honor to participate. RHS band members who earned a spot in the prestigious honor band were Caden Breeding, Cory Brown, Kate Gray, Hannah Kang, Midquer Lopez, James Peterson, MaKenna Pollard, Cedric Serio, Alexis Thompson, and Matthew Yates.

These proud members joined others across the area in 4 different rehearsals and then the ultimate concert event. Starting on January 12, 2023, members participated in

rehearsals at Louisiana Tech University, learning the music to be performed. On January 14, 2023, all their practice and expertise were on display as they performed their

concert at Howard Auditorium at Louisiana Tech. The RHS band is proud of everyone who tried out for this prestigious honor, and is extremely appreciative of the efforts of those who earned the opportunity to show their skills at the District One Band Director's Association Honor Band.



RHS Band members earn District One Band Director's Association Honor Band

### **Art Displays Talent STAFF REPORT**

If you have never done so, the art department has many of the artwork prepared by students displayed proudly in the front hallway of Ruston High School. The display is located just to the left of the main office.

The art featured is constantly changing week to week to ensure that all forms are on display. From ceramic work to self-portraits to almost any form of painting or sketching, there is something that should catch your eye. If you have not done so, the art department invites you to visit the display and enjoy the many talents that RHS students possess. Students are also encouraged to check out the various murals around RHS as well, as art students throughout history have made their presence known on campus for life.















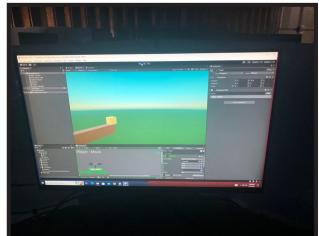
# **Gaming Gurus Get Creative**

Information Provided by Mr. Matthew MacDaniels/ Sponsor

Ruston High's Gaming Gurus Club participated in a workshop at Louisiana Tech University for a game creation software called Unity. The club extends a big thank you to Jerry Berg for hosting us along with the Louisiana Tech Esports group for allowing us to use their space.

The students used the software to create a game world complete with a character and simulated enemies. The experience was fun as well as educational.







Ruston High School (RHS) is founded on many traditions and prides itself on the fact that students actively participate in those traditions. Whether it's Bearcat Friday's or pep rallies or dances and proms, the student participation at these events and more is always high and students appreciate the fact that they are carrying ion those traditions.

At RHS, it is said again and again that we are firmly founded. We have established our school as a school of excellence, and students step up each year and ensure that our overall ratings and performance scores are excellent. So where do students find the guide that ensure that everyone can be a part of our school environment, and why do they continue each year to excel and keep trying their best?

Perhaps one part of the answer lies in the words that are posted throughout our school to remind everyone that they matter - that respect, responsibility, and readiness are the key to our success.

At RHS, we "R" respectful. According to the chart, that means that we 1) follow and respond to adult directions; b) use appropriate language and tone with self, teachers, and others; c) respect others' personal space and property; and d) let your actions show that you are on task. We may all have our slack moments, but if we continue to be respectful we can all make RHS a place that everyone fells comfortable and safe at.

At RHS, we "R" responsible. We a) know and follow classroom rules; b) accept positive praise as well as negative consequences; and c) keep your space clean. Again, we may not always adhere to these standards, but in general, most students do.

At RHS, we "R" ready. We a) arrive on time and ready to work; b) be prepared with materials and assignments; c) take an active, positive role in classroom activities; and d) believe that success is possible.

The above emphasizes what make RHS an "A" school where students can achieve and do achieve. When students follow these simple guidelines, their success and the success of others is much easier to obtain. The 3 "Rs" should not be just a guidelines for students when they are at school, but will work outside of RHS as well

Now we all know that not everyone will participate or get excited about being at school and becoming an active participant. For whatever reason, some students simply do not wish to become a part of something greater. However, as long as the majority of students believe that RHS is the best school and provides the best opportunities, and if students who feel that way keep following these guidelines, they may just find that their actions will influence another student who may not feel a part of the school environment

guidelines are our foundation, there will be success. At RHS, we "R" firmly founded, and each day offers us another opportunity to make

that bond even stronger. We "R" respectful; we "R" responsible; and we "R" ready.

There will always be days where each of us will at some point fail to live up to every guideline posted. We are human and do fall short sometimes. However, as long as these

# We Responsible

Ule R Respectful

Follow and respond to adult directions.

Respect others' personal space and property.

Let your actions show that you are on task.

- Know and follow classroom rules.
- Accept positive praise as well as negative consequences.

Use appropriate language and tone with self, teachers,

Keep your space clean.

and others.



- · Arrive on time and ready to work.
- Be prepared with materials and assignments. Take an active, positive role in classroom activities.
- Believe success is possible.



# **Ruston High School Sports**





# **January 26, 2023**

# **RHS Powerlifting Begins Season**

**Places 6 at First Tournament** 

Information Provided by Mrs. Sarah Wages/ Girls' Powerlifting Coach

On January 7, 2023, the powerlifting season officially began in north Louisiana. RHS competitors participated in the Dr. Billy Jack Talton Hall of Fame invitational held at West Monroe High School, and performed well.

Placing in the top 5 in their weight class were 6 Bearcat powerlifters. Lifting their way to 4<sup>th</sup> places finishes were Taylor Durrett, Emma Pylant, Mason Shumaker, and Xander Edwards. Placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in her weight class was Natalie Brooks. The Ladies' Powerlifting team had two lifters capture 1<sup>st</sup> place: Madison Jacks and Syriana Mack. Competition will continue for these lifters as they all try to place at invitations for a chance to compete at the regional and state invitations later this season.













Photographs courtesy of Phat's Barbershop Club Podcast: Shout Out for many pictures throughout this publication and for their excellent coverage of RHS sports!

# **RHS Powerlifting Competes Again**

Places 9 at Ouachita Lions Invitational

Information Provided Courtesy of Phat's Barbershop Club Podcast

On January 21, 2023, the powerlifting season continued as Ruston High School (RHS) powerlifters competed in the Ouachita Lions Invitational in Monroe, Louisiana. This would be the 2nd opportunity for members to compete before the regional and state invitations later this season.

The powerlifters did a great job of representing RHS, placing 9 lifters in the Top 3. Placing in 3rd in their weight classifications were 3 Bearcat lifters: Miguel Leon, Leslie Alexander, and Scarlett Revels. RHS also had 3 lifters placed 2nd in their weight classifications: Aaron Fallin, Xander Edwards, and Ardajah Millsap.

RHS had 3 lifters who placed 1st at the invitational. These champions in their weight classifications were Kameron Dobbins, Dean Colvin, and Cam Venzant









## **September Athletes of the Month**

**Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm** 

Kim Dupree State Farm was honored to award two very talented and hardworking members of Ruston High School's Swimming Team for the month of September! The members selected by their respective coaches were KaraLin Hoover and Owen Frick.

Commenting on their selection, swimming coach Rocky Smith said of the students: "Dedicated hard workers who led by example at practice in performance and

Congratulations KaraLin and Owen! We are proud of you!







Kim Dupree, Agent

State Farm

### **October Athletes of the Month**

**Recognition by Kim Dupree State Farm** 

Kim Dupree State Farm was honored to award two very talented and hardworking members of Ruston High School's cross country team for the month of October! The members selected by their respective coaches were Lili Garrett and Andrew McKaskle.

Coach Dustin Cochran stated on Lilly Garret's selection, "This month Lily was the Region 1-5A champ, Division 1 runner-up and most importantly signed an NIL with the University of Tennessee."

On the selection of Andrew McKaskle, Coach Cochran added, "Andrew battled flu and bronchitis last month and into November. He fought through this, lost 10 lbs., and still finished 27th at the state meet, helping us to a third overall finish as a team."

These two outstanding athletes are truly shining, and we can't wait to see what's next for them!







Dupree, Agent

State Farm

State Farn

(318) 255-6301

Kim Du

18) 255-6301

ent



Kim Dupree, Ag

🥾 State Fai

(318) 255-630

Kim

ate Farn







# **Ruston High School Sports**



Page 6







# 5 Bearcat Soccer



# **Senior Night Victories** Cats win 8-0 **Lady Cats win 1-0**



# **Boy's Soccer Highlights** Playing Hard for Playoff Run

**January 26, 2023** 

Information Provided by Coach Hankamer

On December 15, 2022, the Ruston High School (RHS) soccer boys' regained momentum in a defensive battle against OCS. In the game, the 'Cats scored the lone goal to take a 1-0 victory and move to 2-3 on the year. The 'Cats game against Pineville on December 19, 2022, was postponed.

The 'Cats opened 2023 by hosting Loyola Prep in a game that was a defensive struggle. Neither team had played in a few weeks, and the game ended in a 0-0 draw, bringing the 'Cats 2-3-1 on the year. On the return to the classroom, the 'Cats and Sterlington were deadlocked at 2-2 after the first half, but a strong 2 score second half led the 'Cats to a 4-2 victory, with the 'Cats improving to 3-3-1 on the year. The game featured a hat trick by Jaiden Languilli, and a goal by Carter Tims.

The 'Cats the hit the road for a contest with arguably one of the toughest soccer teams in north Louisiana, taking on Benton on January 7, 2023. Despite a hard effort, the 'Cats fell 1-4 and moved to 3-4-1 on the year.

Returning home, the 'Cats opened district play and hosted Natchitoches on January 9, 2023. Falling behind 3-0 early, the 'Cats clawed back but fell just short 3-2, dropping to 3-5-1 on the season. Staying home, they took on Tioga on January 12, 2023, and the offense and defense clicked as they won 4-0 as Jaiden Languilli pulled off another hat trick, Koy Tolar scoring a goal, and Trenton Richard posting his 2<sup>nd</sup> shutout of the season. The 'Cats improved to 4-5-1 (1-0) on the year.

The 'Cats continued their scoring on the field as they hit the road against North Desoto on January 14, 2023, posting a 3-1 victory and moving to 5-5-1 (2-0) on the season. Staying on the road, the 'Cats dropped a close one on January 17, 2023, to Alexandria, making their record 5-6-1 (2-1).

There is no place at home, and the 'Cats welcomed River Oaks on January 21, 2023, for senior day. Fittingly, the Cats broke the game open to claim the largest goal differential, winning 8-0 in the shutout. Trenton Richard posted his 3<sup>rd</sup> shutout of the year. Five players scored goals as the offense stepped up. Jaiden Langiulli hit the back of the net 3 times again; Jack Elliot scored twice; and Austin Guillory Franklin Ulloa, and Christopher Harps each found the back of the net as well.

Closing out the regular season and district play on the road, the 'Cats will face off with Ouachita today, January 26, 2023, in a game with district implications as they make a push for the playoffs. The January 24, 2023, game against Neville is still pending from postponement as of publication.

Playoffs will soon begin and the 'Cats are looking for Bearcat Nation to help fire them up as they begin their journey. Listen for announcements at RHS and check online at LHSAA.org for the playoff schedule, and be sure to let the 'Cats know that they have your support.







Left above: Bri McLaughlin on defense. Right: Mia Tapia takes corner shot

Photo credit for several action soccer shots: Tonya McCulloch

# Girls' Soccer Playing Hard

Wrapping Up District Pay/ Preparing for Playoffs **Information Provided by Coach Jacqueline Bean** 

Starting against tough competition early in the year, the Ruston High School girls' soccer team -1 record up against OCS. In a defensive struggle, a 1-1 halftime score turned out to be the final score and the Lady 'Cats record moved to 3-2-2 on the year with their second draw of

The Lady Bearcats opened 2023 with a 4-game home stand at Hoss Garrett Stadium. Up first for Lady 'Cats was Pineville on January 5, 2023. After falling behind 1-0 in the first half, Reagan McCulloch scored to tie the game in the second half, and the game ended in a 1-1 draw and the Lady 'Cats moved to 3-2-3 on the year. Two short days later on January 7, 2023, they welcomed West Monroe in the early hours playing on limited rest, but fought hard. As they fell 0-2, making their record 3-3-3 on the year.

Next up was Franklin Parish on January 10, 2023. In a defensive game, the Lady 'Cats bounced

back with a 1-0 victory and moved to 4-3-3 on the year. To close the four-game stand, the Lady 'Cats brought in Tioga on January 12, 2023 and fell 2-1 in a windy match featuring all goals scored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Dropping to 4-4-3 on the year. With the homestand over, the Lady 'Cats hit the road and took on North Desoto and walked away with a 2-0 win, improving to 5-4-3 on the year. Staying on the road. The

Returning home, the Lady 'Cats celebrated senior day as they looked for a bounce back game as they welcomed Grant to Ruston on January 21, 2023. In a defensive battle, Emily Stutzman posted her 4<sup>th</sup> shutout of the year, with Mia Tapia scoring with 3 minutes left in the game with an assist from Ashlyn Cripps, and the Lady 'Cats claimed the 1-0 victory for the senior day win. This brought their record to 6-5-3 on the year.

The Lady 'Cats return to the road tonight as they take on Ouachita before their final regular season match against Sterlington on January 30, 2023.

Lady 'Cats faced off with a tough West Ouachita team on January 19, 2023, dropping the game 0-6, dropping their record to 5-5-3.

As of publication, the game postponed against Neville is still pending as well.

With the playoffs soon to be announced, the Lady 'Cats continue to fight hard for the bests seeding possible. The Lady 'Cats appreciate the support they have received to date and hope to see much more of Bearcat Nation in the stands in the playoffs.

## **RHS Tennis Sets Season Information Provided by Coach David Poe**

Ruston High School (RHS) tennis has held tryouts and the players are preparing for a great season of tennis this year.

With just less than a month to prepare, the season begins officially for RHS tennis on Feb. 17-18, 2023.

Students and fans are welcomed to attend the tournaments this

year and pull for out tennis players. The schedule has been published for the year and is provided for those interested.



| Date                                                                                     | Day                                                                                     | Opponent                                                                                                                | Location                                                               | Start time                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb 17-18<br>Feb 27                                                                      | Fri/Sat<br>Monday                                                                       | Bolton Cup*<br>St. Freds                                                                                                | Monroe*<br>The MAC*                                                    | 8:00am<br>3:00pm                                                                       |
| Mar 6 (JV)<br>Mar 7<br>Mar 9<br>Mar 20<br>Mar 21<br>Mar 23<br>Mar 27<br>Mar 28<br>Mar 30 | Monday Tuesday Thursday Monday Tuesday Thursday Monday Tuesday Thursday Tuesday Tuesday | Quitman/Choudrant Airline West Monroe Quitman(JV)/St. Mary's (V) Pineville Captain Shreve Byrd Caldwell Benton/Haughton | home<br>home<br>West Monroe HS<br>home<br>home<br>LSUS<br>home<br>home | 3:15pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:00pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:30pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:15pm |
| Apr 3 Apr 4 Apr 6 Apr 11 Apr 17-18 Apr 24-25                                             | Monday<br>Tuesday<br>Thursday<br>Tuesday<br>Mon/Tues<br>Mon/Tues                        | Neville West Monroe West Ouachita Captain Shreve Regionals State                                                        | Forsythe home home home Monroe                                         | 2:00pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:15pm<br>3:15pm<br>8:00am                                         |













# **Ruston High School Sports**



Page 7



# Bearcat Boys' Basketball

**January 26, 2023** 

**Driving for the District Title** Information provided by Coach Ryan Bond

In the last edition, the Ruston High School (RHS) boys' basketball team had played to an impressive 10-1 start and a state power rating of #2 were preparing to host the Remington Butler Classic, December 15-17, 2022. The tournament started out with the 'Cats playing overcoming a slow start to post a 55-34 victory in their opening game against Carroll. In the next day's action, the Cats' faced off against Franklin Parish and the offense came alive to post a huge 75-52 win. To close out the tournament, the 'Cats went took on archrival Neville. In one of many I-20 showdowns, it was the 'Cats who took the victory and did so handily, 62-35, bringing their record to 13-1 on the young year.

After the tournament, the 'Cats welcomed Gibsland-Coleman on December 19, 2022. In that game, the offense and defense both played at high levels, and with the clock running continuously most of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half due to the score, the 'Cats cruised to a 66-31 win, moving to 14-1 on the year.

The 'Cats closed out the year playing in the West Monroe Tournament. First up for the 'Cats on Dec. 29, 2022, where the 'Cats first faced Wossman. The 'Cats cruised to a 61-44 victory. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the tournament, the 'Cats took on Calvary Baptist and walked off with a huge 64-31 victory. The 'Cats closed out 2022 with a 16-1 record and moved to the #1 power rating in Class 5A.

The 'Cats opened the new year on the road at Jonesboro-Hodge on January 6, 2023, taking on the always tough Tigers. With a sound defense, the 'Cats ousted the Tigers 53-40, moving to 17-1.

Afterwards, the 'Cats returned home to open district play, beginning with West Monroe on January 10, 2023. A crowd, including the RHS band and choir, joined the

cheerleaders in supporting the 'Cats in this showdown. In a game that featured multiple scoring streaks and 2 slam dunks by RHS, the 'Cats prevailed with a huge 65-41, Continuing in district play, on January 13, 2023, the 'Cats welcomed Ouachita to RHS. With the home crowd cheering them on, the 'Cats played hard and held the lead

until the last shot fell for Ouachita, upsetting the 'Cats 56-57. This left the 'Cats with an 18-2 (1-1) record on the season.

Hitting the road, the 'Cats journeyed to Pineville on January 17, 2023, to seek retribution for their previous defeat. The 'Cats held nothing back as the cruised to a 69-55, even as they played short two starters. The victory moved the 'Cats to 19-2 (2-1). On January 20, 2022, the 'Cats took the momentum built to Alexandria, where a slow first half that ended with the 'Cats down by double digits was not enough to hold the 'Cats down and they came back for a huge 59-51 victory, moving to 20-2 (3-1).

Tomorrow night, the 'Cats return home to continue their path towards a district title and more, holding on to top 5 power rating as they host West Ouachita on January 27, 2023, and will close out the month on January 31, 2023, on the road against West Monroe.

In February 2023, the 'Cats look to close out district play as they compete for the district title and the best playoff seeding possible. This begins with a road trip to seek revenge at Ouachita on February 3, 2023, a game pivotal for the district title and state seedings.

The 'Cats return home for their final regular season stand for games against Pineville on February 7, 2023, and Alexandria on February 10, 2023.

The 'Cats close out the regular season and district play on the road against West Ouachita on February 14, 2023. Playing out of district to prepare for their playoff run, the 'Cats will travel to Choudant on Feb. 16, 2023, and then close out the regular season at Evangel Christian on February 18, 2023. As always, the 'Cats hope to see you in the stands as they look to make their mark this year.







# Bearcat Basketball

### RHS Girls' Basketball

Rebounding in District and for Playoff Push **Information Provided by Coach Meredith Graf** 

The Lady 'Cats participated in the Walker Tournament on December 16-17, 2022, since last covered in this source. They opened the tournament against tough Huntington team, losing by a score of 33-49. In the second game of the tournament, it was heartbreak time in another close call as the Lady 'Cats fell 38-39, evening the record on the year

The Lady 'Cats returned home to host Gibsland-Coleman on December 19, 2022, falling with a tough 43-40 loss as they worked through injuries, taking the record to 7-8. To close out 2022, they hit the road for the West Monroe tournament held Dec. 28-29, 2022. In that tournament, the Lady 'Cats fell to Wossman 25-58 and then fell to Albany 32-47, ending 2022 with a 7-10 record.

With time to heal and regroup, the Lady 'Cats opened the new year on the road traveling to West Ouachita on January 6, 2023. With time to rest and heal, the Lady rebounded from injuries and posted a 54-16 victory, moving to 8-10 as they prepared to open district play.

Returning home for a 2 game home stand, district play began with the Lady 'Cats first opponent being West Monroe on January 10, 2023. Playing in front of a fired up home crowd, the Lady 'Cats played fast and hard and triumphed with a huge 55-33 victory to take the district opener, improving to 9-10 (1-0). On January 13, 2023, the Lady

'Cats faced off against Ouachita and in an impressive, fast paced game, posted a huge 48-41 victory to move to and even 10-10 on the year, but more, 2-0 in district play.

Back on the road, the Lady 'Cats took on Pineville on January 17, 2023. Despite falling behind early and being off their best game, the Lady 'Cats took the win 43-22, remaining undefeated in district play with a record of 11-10 (3-0). January 20, 2022, the Lady 'Cats fell to Alexandria, making their record 11-11 (3-1).

Tomorrow night, the Lady 'Cats return to action at home, hosting West Ouachita, and will close out the month on January 31, 2023, on the road against West Monroe. All

games now are critical for district standings and playoff seedings.

In February 2023, the Lady 'Cats look to close out district play and make a push for the playoffs, beginning with a road trip to Ouachita on February 3, 2023. They return home for their final regular season stand for games against Pineville on February 7, 2023, and Alexandria on February 10, 2023.









**Upcoming in Sports Track and Field** Baseball Preview **Softball Preview** 



Cats