

Bobcat Tracks

A publication of the Hope Public Schools

Academics on the rise across HPSD

The quality of the academic growth occurring within the Hope Public School District is beginning to become evident.



Initiatives at all campuses

HPSD School Improvement Specialist Carla Narlesky outlined numerous factors which have gone into the changes which have begun to become evident in standardized testing. Narlesky said that the two campuses which had the poorest showing in the 2017 administration of the ACT Aspire, Clinton Primary School and Hope High School, were both improved in all categories in the 2018 administration of the test.

“They had to make sure that they were consistent across the board,” she said. Narlesky said that all five campuses of the Hope district were above the state average for the “value added growth” component of student performance.



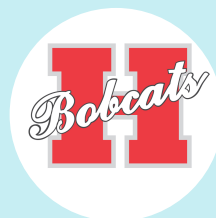
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Spring Calendar

Jan. 21 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Feb. 15, 18 - Winter break; President’s Day.

March 18-22 - Spring Break.

Three campuses, Beryl Henry Elementary, Yerger Middle School, and Hope Academy of Public Service, finished among the top five middle schools in southwest Arkansas in math and English Language growth. BHE was first overall in both categories, while YMS was third overall and fourth in math and fifth in ELA, and HAPS was also fifth in ELA across southwest Arkansas.

The Hope High School campus was also recognized by the University of Arkansas Office for Education Policy as a school that “Beat the Odds” in demonstrating student growth in math in the 2018 ACT Aspire assessment.

Narlesky said the results showed the district’s focus upon literacy and the greater impact of initiatives in attendance and teacher development. She said all five campuses showed a 90 percent or better attendance rate for the period.

Specific initiatives during the period have included a three-year team institute at CPS; daily academic intervention time at BHE; dramatic reductions in discipline referrals at YMS; Beta Club membership growth by 78 students at HAPS; a visual student progress center at the CATS campus; and a literacy initiative at HHS that extends across all subject matter.

HPSD Superintendent Dr. Bobby Hart commended the efforts on each campus and the recognition by the University of Arkansas Office for Education Policy of the student growth at BHE, YMS, and HAPS.

“The conversation in our district has moved from management to teaching and learning,” Dr. Hart said.

“There are success stories throughout our district.”

Mental health initiative

The science at the root of a 2018 study concerning the relationship between early childhood trauma and later behavior in school children is being studied for application in the Hope Public School District.

Creative Action Team School (CATS) Principal Mike Radebaugh said the findings of the study as related in a week-long conference of educators he attended recently in California were remarkable.

“What this shows is that we have to provide more than just what we provide from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,”

Radebaugh explained.

He said the concept of Adverse Childhood Experiences as related to later academic performance and behavior in students is demonstrable as a factor in the brain development of many students.

Radebaugh said the study showed fundamental traumatic experiences known as “Adverse Childhood Experiences” include a death in the family; divorce within the family; incarceration of a family member; debilitating or fatal illness within the family; drug use within the family; witnessing violence; being violently verbally abused; being the victim of violence; sexual abuse within the family or being a victim of sexual abuse; violent living conditions within the neighborhood; and/or economic hardship within the family.

He said, on average, students in public school “alternative learning environment” programs have experienced at least 5.5 ACES.

Radebaugh explained that the study shows how such trauma affects brain development over time, often translating directly into action by a student such as outbursts of anger or violence.

He said that Arkansas is among the lowest states nationally with children who have no ACES impact, but is among the highest nationally in children with four or more ACES impacts.

“We have to take this information out into the community, to our local civic clubs, our local churches,”

Radebaugh said.

He said the HPSD is building a framework through the CATS program to take the steps to provide “wrap around” services that aid students beyond the regular school day.

Some of those services include homeless advocacy, after school tutoring and other programs, free breakfast and lunch on each campus, mentoring programs such as WatchD.O.G.S. (Watch Dads of Great Students), and the development of broader health services through a school-based health clinic.

BOBCAT P.A.W.S.

People



Hope High School English teacher Courtney Howard is among five finalists nationwide under consideration for the 2019 National Association for Alternative Certification Outstanding New Educator Award. The winner of the prestigious honor will be announced nationally at the NAAC Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in March. Howard is a 2012 graduate of Kansas State University with a B.S. degree in psychology. She teaches ninth grade English, AP English, and English Composition at Hope High School, and is the faculty advisor to the HHS Student Council, which is responsible for homecoming activities, fall and spring blood drives, Mr./Miss HHS Pageant-Talent Contest, powderpuff football, prom, and spring honors banquet.

Awards



Yerger Middle School was awarded a \$500 career development fund prize at the October Explore Success youth manufacturing conference at Hempstead Hall on the University of Arkansas-Hope campus. Yerger Principal Josclynn Wiley accepted the check, along with YMS students Victor Santamaria, Dasia Ricks, Quan Bradley, and Emy Resendez.

Wins



The Hope High School Bobcat Marching Band, under Hope Bands Director Julie Gladden's staff, was awarded a rating of "Excellent" at the Oct. 23 Arkansas State Band and Orchestra Association Region II Marching Assessment. The contest at Lakeside High School in Hot Springs featured performances by 21 high school bands from across west central and southwest Arkansas across enrollment classifications from 2A to 6A.

Successes



An Environmental and Spatial Technology program team at Hope High School presented the Hope School Board with a Hempstead County Bicentennial Year research project about the development of public education in Hempstead County. EAST students Jacqueline Culley and Drake Mason collaborated with Elizabeth Bamber and Jackson Bowlin on the oral history CD and accompanying overview entitled "Two Hundred Years of Education in Hempstead County." The project has been deposited in the official Bicentennial Time Capsule. HHS EAST teacher Adrienne Ware directed the students in their research.

CAMPUSES

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

BHE tops OEP school list; YMS, HAPS in top five

Students at three of the five campuses of the Hope Public Schools demonstrated sufficient academic growth levels in ACT Aspire Math and English Language Arts from the 2017-2018 administration of the test to put them in the top five schools in southwest Arkansas.

Beryl Henry Elementary School was the top performer overall and in each category across Southwest Arkansas, according to the University of Arkansas Office for Education Policy.

BHE, Yerger Middle School, and Hope Academy of Public Service were three of the top five student growth performers across the region, according to the UA report released Nov. 14.

"We are very proud of the efforts of our students, parents and staff," Hope Superintendent Dr. Bobby Hart said. "The growth and improved outcomes for these campuses are a direct result of the hard work and commitment that all three groups have done. They are just one more example of how HPS is moving forward."

BHE led the middle school category across southwest Arkansas in Overall Middle School ACT Aspire growth with a content growth score of 83.11. BHE serves grades five and six.

"The students' academic growth at Beryl Henry Elementary is a reflection of everyone working together to meet the needs of our prized pupils," BHE Principal Dr. Roy Turner said. "Our staff certainly believes in giving 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.'"

BHE topped the region in Middle Math ACT Aspire Growth with a score of 82.80, and Middle ELA ACT Aspire Growth at 83.15, according to the UA OEP report.

Yerger Middle School was No. 3 across southwest Arkansas overall with a content growth score of 80.54. YMS serves grades seven and eight.

YMS was fourth across the region in math growth with an 80.00 score and fifth in southwest Arkansas in ELA content growth at 81.05, and was tied with HAPS in that category. The HAPS campus serves students across grades five through nine.

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

Christmas and the new year mean many things to many people.

For students and teachers, they mean a much-needed break from the school year.

We have made some great strides in 2018 and we look forward to even better results in 2019.

From all of us at the Hope Public Schools, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2019.



HPS Supt.
Bobby Hart

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

