



Bobcat Tracks

A publication of the Hope Public Schools

HPSD builds community presence

The positive presence of the Hope Public School District in the lives of its students has historical roots and new dimensions.



Positive influences from history

The impacts of the 1969 integration of Hope High School was the subject of a roundtable discussion in February by students who lived it. Eighth Judicial District-North Circuit Judge Randy Wright and retired Hope educator and assistant principal Junanne Wright were students at Hope High School, and Dr. Linda Clark, HPS social services coordinator, was a student at Yerger High School during or immediately before the integration process was completed in 1969.

The three former Hope students were the panelists for “Hope Public Schools: A Turning Point,” a Black History Month program at Hope High School moderated by HopePrescott News Co-publisher Mark Keith.



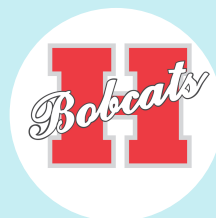
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Spring Calendar

March 18-22 - Spring Break.

April 15 - School Board meets, 5:30 p.m., Admin. Bldg.

April 19 - Good Friday holiday.

The panelists agreed the impact of the merger of the black Yerger High School system into the white Hope High School campus was greater for black students. The leadership of Yerger Principal Will V. Rutherford was an important factor for the Yerger students. Rutherford involved students in the transition planning by the consolidated team that made decisions about student council and cheerleader elections which both campuses accepted. Brown said that Rutherford was a genuine catalyst for a graceful transition.

Students from both communities knew how to make the transition work through important teen activities such as athletics, Wright said. That “seamless transition” brought new talent into the HHS season that became legendary with a state AA title, something which the Yerger athletics program already had accomplished. Clark said HHS educators such as Earl Downs and Troy Buck, and Hope businessman James McLarty brought black and white students together before integration through summer jobs.

Questions for the discussion were drawn from submissions by Hope Public Schools social studies classes and the Gifted and Talented program. Video of the complete discussion is available on the Hope Public Schools website.

Food pantry initiative

The temporary “shutdown” of federal assistance programs resulted in the roll out of a free food pantry program by the Hope Public School District. Superintendent Dr. Bobby Hart announced the program in a Jan. 23 letter to local business and community leaders.

Hart said that food pantries will be established at Clinton Primary School, Beryl Henry Elementary School, Yerger Middle School, Hope Academy of Public Service, and Hope High School.

Campus food pantries will provide distributions on a scheduled basis; will be inventoried on a regular basis; and, will have a single point of contact for each campus to receive donations and distribute food.

Hart said the only qualification to receive items from the food pantry is that a student be enrolled in the Hope Public Schools. Recommended items for donation include Pop Tarts, individually-packaged peanut butter crackers, individual serving cans of Vienna sausage, individually-packaged dry cereals, individually-packaged trail mix, individually-packaged cheese crackers, individually-packaged pre-prepared tuna servings, individually-packaged fruit cup, and individually-packaged noodle cup.

Hispanic student college forum

Families of Hispanic high school students learned in January at a family forum on college readiness that a high school diploma alone is no longer sufficient for many opportunities which students can obtain after high school. Dr. Veronikha Salazar, assistant vice president for student engagement at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, said students today must be prepared in math, laboratory sciences, English, history, foreign language and the arts to graduate from high school. Dr. Salazar recommended students maintain their grades between a 3.0-4.0 grade point average in high school in order to readily qualify for scholarships, student loans and other financial aid. Honors classes, Advanced Placement program classes, the International Baccalaureate program, and/or concurrent studies classes at the University of Arkansas-Hope, will improve a student’s potential to graduate from college within a reasonable period, she said. Salazar said the college application process is a family endeavor. She said both student and parents should be aware of college entrance requirements, graduation requirements, remedial class requirements, state testing requirements, and standardized testing requirements well-in-advance of applying for admission.

Salazar recommended that students take tests such as the ACT or SAT at least twice during the 11th and 12th grade years of high school. She also recommended that parents consult with the counselor’s office at Hope High School for information on those tests. Salazar said colleges and universities now look at the “whole graduate” in deciding admissions, including writing skills, community activity and service, extracurricular activity, and demonstrated habits.

BOBCAT P.A.W.S.

People



Third year Hope High School English teacher Courtney Howard is the “honorable mention” honoree of the National Association for Alternative Certification 2019 Outstanding New Educator Award. Honorees were recognized at the NAAC Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. 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 HHS, 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



Beryl Henry Elementary School Choir students who performed during the Hempstead County Bicentennial Celebration on Dec. 15, 2018, were honored by the Hempstead County Bicentennial Commission as the “People’s Choice” entertainers at the historic celebration. Presenting certificates to Sandra Jones, choir director, with BHE Principal Dr. Roy Turner was Bicentennial Commission member Josh Williams. Performers included Kenia Tucker, Tanasia Young, Taniya Willis, Kiana Martin, Jazmin Ibarra-Gonzalez, Kenadi Phillips, Jazmine Davis, Chloe Bittle, Tyrenda Hale, Skylar Cheatham, Zoraida Medina, Dakota Pioterek, Amauria Neal, Arianna Lockett, Anayia Harris, and Israel Juarez.

Wins



Hope Academy of Public Service fifth grade student Addison McEuen is congratulated by HAPS Principal Dr. Carol Ann Duke, right, and HAPS Counselor Marilyn Murphy, left on her win at the Hempstead County Spelling Bee on Jan. 16. HAPS has dominated the contest the past four years to have student Mika Brown retire undefeated in the ninth grade.

Successes



Cadet Captain Britney Rodriguez received the AR-20101 standard from Command Presiding Officer Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark S. Hart in ceremonies in the Hope High School auditorium. Col. Hart emphasized the opportunities afforded each cadet in AFJROTC in a charge to the unit that reflected upon the loyalty, commitment, and trust through professionalism in unit service which the program offers. Outgoing Cadet Commander Cadet/Major Alan Martinez was formally promoted to his new rank during the ceremonies. A senior at HHS, CM Martinez is a three-year member of AFJROTC.

CAMPUSES

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

Collegiate Academy looks to second year

The Hope Collegiate Academy enters its second academic year in the fall semester 2019-2020 on the University of Arkansas-Hope campus. The HCA is a cohort of Hope High School housed on the UAHT-Hope campus that includes students in grades 10-12 who study toward a diploma from HHS, and an Associate degree from UAHT at graduation. Admission is by application submitted to the office of Dean of Academy Mikki Curtis by April 1. Admission is at the 10th grade level, and applicants must have a minimum ACT or equivalent score of 16 in all three placement areas to be considered for admission. The HCA opened on the UAHT campus in the 2018-2019 academic year with a "pilot" class of 24 students from the Hope Public Schools District. The HCA is a direct partnership between UAHT and the HPSD. Admission is open only to students enrolled in the HPSD. The HCA represents a next step for HHS students who want to go to college by creating a "total immersion" college experience. Students graduating from HHS through the program can receive a two-year degree from UAHT that makes them eligible to enter any four-year college or university in Arkansas at the third year, or "junior", level. Study at UAHT through the HCA is completely free of charge. Applicants are screened based upon ACT/Accuplacer scores and academic record, based upon a three-tiered admissions system. Should there be more applicants than available slots, admission is typically based upon additional consideration of grade point average, attendance record, and discipline record. Students are accepted, generally, across all three tiers. The HCA offers the rigor of regular collegiate study, and the 10th grade transition is intended to allow students to make the step. Participation in band and athletics at HHS is available for HCA students as are UAHT organizations and access to all performances at Hempstead Hall. Four-year degree costs are substantially reduced by the HCA because the first two years are free, but students can qualify for Arkansas Scholarship Lottery and other scholarship funding in the third and fourth years.

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

We work hard to promote and celebrate the diversity of our district. Our Hispanic student college appreciation night was just one example of how we attempt to personalize the educational experience for each student.



HPS Supt. Bobby Hart

We will be providing more services in the future, all of which help make us a leader in student-centered learning.

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

