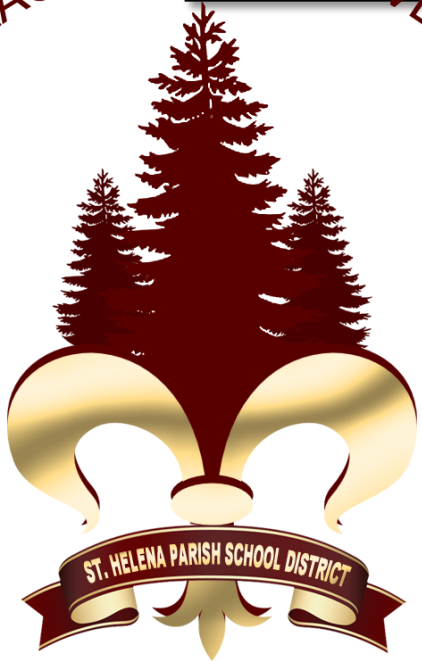


# Progress Report



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT • TEACHER

EFFECTIVENESS • PUBLIC CONFIDENCE





# *Relentless Pursuit of Excellence*

# School Board Members



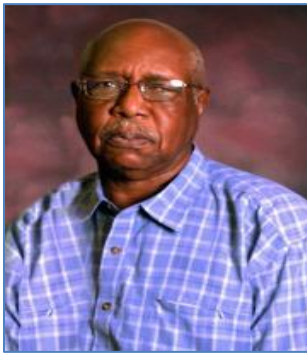
Joyce Porter  
District 1



Edward "Scott" Galmon  
Board President  
District 2



Linda Chaney  
Board Vice President  
District 3



Willie George Lee  
District 4



Virginia Bell  
District 5



Alton Travis  
District 6

**St. Helena Parish School Board**  
354 Sitman Street  
Greensburg, LA 70441  
225-222-4349  
[www.sthpk-12.net](http://www.sthpk-12.net)

**St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy**

1798 Hwy 1042  
Greensburg, LA 70441  
(225) 222-4364  
Donna Jackson, Co-Administrator  
Shannon Scott, Co-Administrator  
Kristie Nettles, Master Teacher  
Bobbie Baker, Arts and Technology Coach  
Cynthia Lee, Dean of Students

**St. Helena College and Career Academy**

14340 Hwy 37  
Greensburg, LA 70441  
(225) 222-4402  
Reginald Douglas, Principal  
Jennifer Grace, Academic Dean  
Shiyecca Singleton, Master Teacher  
LaTia Brown, College and Career Coach  
Brandon Brown, Athletic Director

**St. Helena Virtual Academy**

[www.sthpk-12.net](http://www.sthpk-12.net)  
Brandy Vaughn, Facilitator

Dear St. Helena Parish Residents,

It is my pleasure to present **St. Helena Parish School District 2014 Progress Report** which highlights a number of major accomplishments that we call “Milestone Moments”, and some of the activities conducted by the school district over the last three years. It is very difficult to detail everything completed, but I hope this report provides a good indication of our efforts and the current state of the school system.

Much has been accomplished toward improving educational services, promoting our district vision, and supporting initiatives that enhance the quality of education for our students while maintaining transparency. Despite the numerous reforms with accountability, testing, and standards, St. Helena continues to improve the academic performance of its students.

The cornerstone of our positive transformation in St. Helena has been the implementation of the **Motion Leadership/Mindful Teaching Framework**. This initiative, facilitated by Dr. Clif St. Germain has catapulted our leadership capacity and instructional practices to higher levels of quality and professionalism. In addition, we are fortunate to receive support and encouragement from our LDOE Network 3 Team lead by Warren Drake. His team, that includes Shenoa Webb and Tamara Johnson, has provided tremendous support toward our efforts.



In 2012, citizens approved a 25.8 millage propositions that supported an increase in employee pay and funded much-needed new facilities and renovations. Our school system earned national recognition for becoming District Accredited through AdvancEd. Most recently, St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy was selected as a **George Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts** and the **President’s Council for Arts and Humanities (PCAH)** Turnaround School.

In light of the numerous changes our educators must endure, are reminded that serving children is a calling, a privilege and an honor. As public servants, we will continue to work hard to earn, keep and honor the trust you have placed in us as we continue our service.

On behalf of my administration, the St. Helena Parish School Board and employees of St. Helena Parish School District, I present this progress report and look forward to working with you as our community continues our *relentless pursuit of excellence*.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Joseph". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the name of the superintendent.

Kelli Joseph, Ed.D.  
Proud Superintendent



### **PASSAGE OF MILLAGE!!**

We have lots to celebrate! We've worked hard to improve student achievement, develop educator effectiveness, and build public confidence. Our community has seen the wonderful transformation that has taken place within our school district. As a result, we garnered enough support to pass both propositions! Now, our students will have consistency in the classroom and facilities to support their learning.

#### **Proposition #1 - Recruiting and Retaining our Teacher Core**

Every certified employee received a \$6,000.00 pay increase that began with the 2013-2014 school year. A certified employee is defined as an individual who earned a college degree and is credentialed through the Louisiana Department of Education to teach academic subjects. Non-certified employees began to receive a \$3,500.00 pay increase. A non-certified employee is defined as someone who is not credentialed through the Louisiana Department of Education to teach academic subjects.

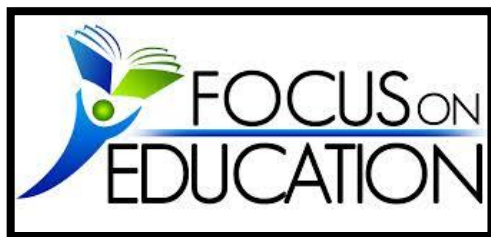


#### **Proposition #2 - Quality Educational Facilities**

Major renovations are taking place! The St. Helena College and Career Academy will get a new 12-classroom facility, football stadium complete with a field house, track, bleachers, press box, lighting, and other features. The auditorium and gym is being completely gutted out and renovated. The remaining



buildings will receive significant upgrades. The elementary school will acquire a new 8-classroom facility along with major renovations to the cafeteria and existing classroom space. A new parking lot and drive will also be included, along with a new entrance to the school.



All teachers in St. Helena participate in our annual **Summer Institute** held previously at SELU and now at St. Helena College and Career Academy. This institute marks the beginning of our year-long professional development initiative within our school district. Our goal is to support our educators by providing the necessary tools to be effective in the classroom.



**\$1.5 Million School Improvement Grant** - St. Helena Parish School District applied and was approved for the SIG Grant. The School Improvement Grants (SIG) are competitive grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate the greatest

need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of students in their lowest-performing schools.

**DOW Promise Grant** - The Dow Promise program is an annual competitive grant program designed to support social, economic, or environmental projects that contribute to long-term success in the communities in which Dow operates and in which Dow employees reside. For the past three years, St. Helena has received \$10,000 of the DOW grant. In order to increase our award, DOW representatives took advantage of their partnership with the Supriya Jindal Foundation and solicited an additional \$20,000. This increased our total award to \$30,000. On October 10, 2012, First Lady Jindal personally delivered the following items to our elementary school students.



**St. Helena Parish Summer Camp** – Through a partnership with the Capital Area United Way, we were able to secure a \$90,000.00 three-year grant to fund a six-week summer camp. Students PreK-6<sup>th</sup> are now able to participate in a summer academic enrichment and recreation program.





**District Accreditation** – in 2012, St. Helena earned accreditation through AdvancEd. This nationally recognized honor is an indication of best practices implemented in the district. It also shows that St. Helena has a commitment to continuous improvement.

**Most Improved District in 2012** – St. Helena showed the most growth in the state of Louisiana on the LEAP test. Despite changes every year to the accountability system, students in St. Helena have shown growth each year.

**1:1 Technology Footprint** – St. Helena is only one of three school districts that have the distinction of 1:1 Technology. This means that every student has access to a computer.

**Virtual Academy** – The St. Helena Virtual Academy is a virtual school for students in grades 3-12. Students can use the program to catch up or get a head of their graduation cohort. The Virtual Academy is open to any student in any location.



**Parent Academy** – In order to increase parental involvement in an organized, meaningful way, we developed the Parent Academy for any adult in St. Helena who wants to learn about various topics such as computer literacy, financial literacy, self-defense, zumba, healthy living, and how to help with homework. Classes are offered every Tuesday night from 5:00pm – 7:00pm.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Courses** – Students at St. Helena College and Career Academy are now exposed to AP courses (Human Geography, Biology, Chemistry, and American History). If students earn a 3 or more on the end-of-year AP exam, they will receive college credit.





St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy was selected as a **George Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts** and the **President's Council for Arts and Humanities** (PCAH) Turnaround School. They will be exposed to an arts integrated curriculum and be taught by celebrity artists during the school year.



**Financially Sound** – The Finance Department has worked to get St. Helena in a solid financial state by eliminating a \$1.5 million deficit, producing a clean financial audit, closing the Hurricane Katrina/Rita FEMA claims, and upgrading the department for efficiency.



**Reconstitution of Schools** - Swift changes have occurred in St. Helena Parish that has ignited the desire of the St. Helena Parish School Board and administration to make bold decisions regarding the future of its school system.



Therefore, during its regular school board meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2013, the St. Helena Parish School Board unanimously approved the closing of both its schools.

St. Helena Central Elementary School has closed and been reconstituted as the **St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy**. St. Helena Central High School has closed and been reconstituted as the **St. Helena College and Career Academy**.



**Regained Control of the Middle School Grades** – St. Helena Parish School District is once again whole!

## Listing of “Milestone Moments” in St. Helena Parish School District

### **School Year 2011 - 2012**

- Established a clear District Vision
- Created an Educational and Facilities Plan
- Updated District Website
- Established a quality professional development program for teachers
- Aligned funds to support the District Vision
- Streamlined Central Office to save money
- Eliminated \$1.5 million dollar deficit
- Improved ACT Scores
- Increased dual enrollment
- Improved graduation rate
- Made significant gains in Reading and Reading Comprehension
- Received a Salad Bar grant for both schools
- Reduced vendor pricing
- Revamped the Special Education department
- Established District Leadership Teams
- Established a Summer Institute and Leadership Summit
- Student and Employee of the Month Awards

### **School Year 2012 - 2013**

- Passed two new tax measures for facilities and employee pay increases
- Passed two existing tax measures for maintenance of facilities
- Achieved AdvancEd District Accreditation
- Most Improved District in the State of Louisiana
- \$10,000 DOW Promise Grant recipient
- \$1.5 million dollar School Improvement Grant (SIG) recipient
- Supriya Jindal Foundation donation of interactive white boards and training
- Major overhaul of technology infrastructure – fiber optics wiring
- Bought back the 5-day school week
- Interactive whiteboard in every classroom
- Online videos of all Board Meetings
- New student information system
- Upgraded employee payroll system

### **School Year 2013 - 2014**

- 1:1 Technology Footprint
- Clean financial audit
- Established a Parent Academy
- \$2,500 donation from Regions for Parent Academy
- \$10,000 DOW Promise Grant recipient
- Created a Crisis Management Policy
- LSU MyMathLab for all high school students

- All teachers received a laptop for instructional purposes
- Purchased new ELA and Math curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Successful visit to St. Helena from Federal Judge James Brady
- Moved into the new Junior Division at St. Helena College and Career Academy
- Created the St. Helena Virtual Academy
- Reconstituted schools
- Created a Blue Print to Excellence
- President's Arts Turnaround School (St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy)
- George Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts School (St. Helena Arts and Technology Academy)
- Academic Summer Camp sponsored by United Way for PreK-6 - \$90,000 over three years
- Improved communication via social media – Facebook, Twitter, and School Messenger

### **School Year 2014 -2015**

- Regained control of middle school
- \$10,000 DOW Promise Grant recipient
- Upgraded phone system
- Instituted Advanced Placement (AP) courses at St. Helena College and Career Academy
- Act 3 Early Childhood Cohort member
- Jump Start College and Career Cohort member
- \$153,095 Believe and Succeed Grant recipient
- Finalized and closed Hurricane Katrina/Rita FEMA claims
- Established Standard Operating Procedures manual
- Created a Recognition Ceremony
- St. Helena is represented on the Capital Area United Way Board of Directors
- St. Helena is represented on the Act 833 Steering Committee
- Recognized by Matthew Chapel for Outstanding Service to the Community

### **Major Partnerships**

- Dr. Clif St. Germain
- DOW
- Regions Bank
- Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB)
- Southeastern Louisiana University (SELU)
- Louisiana State University (LSU)
- School Leadership Center (SLC)
- SUNS Center
- Capital Area United Way
- Northshore Technical College
- Southern University
- George Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts – Louisiana A+
- President's Council for Arts and Humanities Arts Turnaround
- Volkert, Inc.
- District Cooperative of Louisiana
- LaSPDIG