

P.A.R.K. PROGRESS

CAPTURING THE MONTH

April 2023

A Golden Celebration

Fifty-three students with a 3.0 GPA or higher for the 2022-23 school year were recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments at our Golden Student Banquet. The celebration included a candy bar, cupcakes, and plenty of food. It was like "a kid in a candy store" type scenario played out in real-time as the students filled their goody bags with sweets until they overflowed. Each student was awarded a certificate acknowledging their hard work.

Students earning a 4.0 left the grand celebration with extra cash in their pockets! They received one hundred dollars cash from P.A.R.K.'s president, Keith Jackson, for every nine weeks a 4.0 GPA was made. Mr. Jackson has handed out eight hundred dollars so far this year.



Student Highlight - Tyana Wilson



Tyana Wilson is a Southwest High School junior driven to perform at the highest level of academics. Her ultimate goal is to attend college and become a nurse. Not only is she one of P.A.R.K.'s elite students, but she is also a talented young entrepreneur. With the help of her grandmother, Tyana created "Anna's Kreations." Where her slogan is "Shop Bright Where Everything is Created by Hand." Tyana creates handmade coasters, dominoes, cutting boards, jewelry trays, jewelry boxes, ink pens, cups, and jars.

Tyana is a dedicated member of our Y-LEAD program and represents our program well when attending college tours. Although she is quiet, the staff members can count on Tyana to sneak into a conversation with a joke or comment that brings smiles to their faces.

We look forward to having Tyana as a senior candidate for our P.A.R.K. scholarships next year.

Dinner Table Conversations

Dinner Table Conversations with employees of U.S. Bank are always informative and fun. The students participating are very attentive and ask questions often. The most discussed topic at April's gathering was how to improve and keep a good credit score.

Some of the answers to that topic were not to get a credit card when on a college campus - putting one in debt, paying off your credit card every month, and the maximum number of credit cards needed is two. Michael Richardson, Branch Banking Market Leader for Arkansas U.S. Bank's noted that more than two could reduce your credit score.

P.A.R.K. students leave the table better prepared to tackle their financial goals for the future.



Tamra Calamese

Program Director

Tamra Patterson Calamese is a P.A.R.K. long hauler in its educational infrastructure. With over 20 years in various roles at P.A.R.K., Mrs. Calamese continues to do as the program's mission states - she strives to enrich the lives of Central Arkansas youth academically through guidance, nurturing, and love.

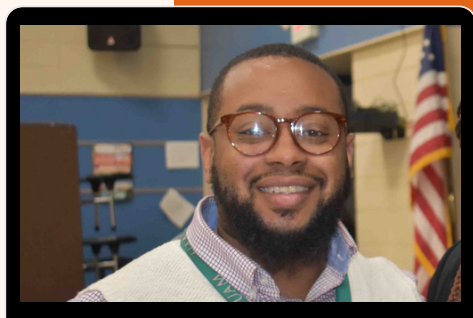
Mrs. Calamese's career with P.A.R.K. began as a Student Life Manager directly from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee as Ms. Patterson. She spent several years in this position until her desire to further her education led her out of state. Upon completing her master's degree, the opportunity to become the Curriculum Coordinator at P.A.R.K. became available, and she couldn't resist returning to the students.

Her knowledge of the program eventually led to her current position as Program Director. "I look back over my years at P.A.R.K., and I am amazed at what God can do! I never imagined when I walked through these doors in 2001 that I would wind up serving in so many capacities! I have always had a deep-set desire to help kids discover their inner strength and set them on the path to their best life. The mission of P.A.R.K. has allowed me to reach out in love and positivity to so many of our next generation of change-makers. Now as Program Director, I am truly humbled to be able to pass on so many of the lessons I have learned throughout my time at P.A.R.K."



P.A.R.K. is grateful to have Mrs. Calamese as a well-versed team member dedicated to the betterment of its students.

JOSE HOLLOWAY CLASS OF 2007



P.A.R.K.'s Jose Holloway is making great things happen as the Director of Bands at Little Rock Southwest High School since 2020. He recently finished his VERY FIRST band compositions and eager is to showcase them!!!

Holloway's music will be featured during the Southwest High Wind Ensemble "Voices Unheard" Spring Concert on May 11th at 6pm. They will premiere "So Come to Find Out..." and "Mane They Crazy Outchea"!!! It is a Spoken Word Concerto featuring another P.A.R.K. graduate, Dr. Marquese McFerguson, PhD as he premieres his piece about the inimitable Rosetta Tharpe while we perform "Mane They Crazy Outchea"!!! Jose is changing the lives of the youth he is teaching, reaching, and inspiring through the methods he learned as student at P.A.R.K.



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Earning her worth ::

Congratulations to P.A.R.K. and Southwest High School senior, Alexis Roberson, for receiving a scholarship from the Friends and Alumni of McClellan Foundation! The foundation is composed of former students of John L. McClellan High School which closed in Spring 2020.

