

# SUCCESS HAPPENS HERE



may 2017

## districtSNAPSHOT



Dear Bryant Families and Community,

In November, I submitted my notice of retirement as Superintendent of Bryant Public Schools. As we approached a millage election, I wanted to be transparent with the staff and our communities about my future leading the district.

Retirement seemed a long time away last fall. Now it is May already, graduation is just around the corner, and June 30 is fast approaching. It is hard to believe I've spent 33 years serving in public education. Some days it seems I just began this profession. I will miss all the students, parents, community supporters and, of course, our staff. Thanks to many individuals I have had an exceptionally rewarding career, especially my last three years in Bryant.

In my last message, I want to challenge you to look toward the future of Bryant Public Schools. Your school board is exceptional. I can say this from experience having served and worked with school boards in various capacities, including time as the sole board member of five State controlled districts. I encourage you to see for yourself by attending an entire meeting or simply reviewing the agendas. They spend time looking at student data, school and department goals and objectives, and learning about the programs in place to educate your children. Board

meetings are not races to approve all the administration's recommendations in record time, but a commitment to ensure a quality education for all students.

Bryant's staff is one of the best in Arkansas. Our incoming superintendent, Dr. Karen Walters, is the hardest working, and brightest young school leader in the state. Over the past two years, she had numerous opportunities to lead other districts, but she remained dedicated to the growth and improvement of education in Bryant. She continues to establish a team of leaders, teachers, and staff who can make Bryant Public Schools a top provider of education. Is there room for continued improvement? You bet, but with her leadership and drive, it will be achieved in a short period of time.

Our students are excelling, many competing on the state, national, and global stage. They are competing not only in athletics and music, but also in engineering, robotics, languages, and other academic arenas. Innovative approaches with technology, scheduling, and teaching will drive student achievement to even greater levels of success.

The passage of the millage will allow the District to address the overcrowded conditions at our schools, provide funds to retain and recruit the best and brightest staff, and provide facilities to

improve teaching and learning. We are proud of the community's support to pass the millage. As old buildings come down and new buildings rise up, the excitement will reach new levels district-wide.

The building program is unprecedented for Bryant. Over \$120 million of improvements and new construction will not only provide great learning environments for students, but it will also have a tremendous impact on the economy of this entire area. Economists tell us construction dollars turn over in a community at least five times during the planning and construction process. This will spark a rise in property values and business growth. I believe it is a win-win for all of us. Thank you again for making it happen.

The future is bright for Bryant Public Schools. It would not be possible without the support of parents, the communities in the district, and most certainly, our students.

I am proud my daughter is being educated here. I am proud to wear Bryant blue and even more proud to say I am a Bryant Hornet. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity the past three years and to end my career in one of the best districts in Arkansas.

*Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell*  
Superintendent

a monthly publication of Bryant Public Schools

**ONE THING I LOVE**  
about Bryant Public Schools



**MUSIC AND  
CHOIR**



## IT'S A SMALL WORLD ... CONNECTING THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Sponsored by the ESOL Department, our fourth annual cultural event is a celebration of the over twenty language minority groups making up the student population in Bryant Schools. Plan to be part of the fun on Tuesday, May 9 from 5:30-8pm at Collegeville Elementary School.

Students of all ages will have an opportunity to explore cultures through hands-on activities, games, and crafts. Food from several different countries will be served including authentic Mexican tamales, egg rolls, fortune cookies, tacos, pancit, and good old North American fare. New this year is the Museum of Discovery's "All About Animals" petting zoo.

Music will be provided by DJ Omar with Sonido Digital. This is a free event for all schools and community members.



Bryant Schools has teamed up with Arkansas Food Bank to provide healthy food options this summer for children and families in Saline County who would otherwise go without the most important meal of the day —breakfast.

Each of our eleven schools will be accepting donations through May 1-19. Drop off items from 7:30am-3:30pm.

### What Counts as Cereal?

- Think Nutritious!
- Dry cereal (boxes or bags, 8oz. or more)
- Cereal/Breakfast Bars
- Pop Tarts
- Oatmeal
- Cream of Wheat
- \$1 donation = 1 box of cereal



## BRYANT'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Courtney Worthen, fourth grade teacher at Springhill Elementary, has been named 2017 District Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Worthen has been a professional educator for the past 16 years, with an emphasis on math, science and social studies. She has been with Bryant since 2007. Congratulations, Mrs. Worthen!

## Commencement Ceremony

Monday, May 22, 7:00pm  
Verizon Arena



## ANNUAL LEADERSHIP DAY HIGHLIGHTS SCHOOL CULTURE

Parents and community members are invited to Springhill Elementary's second annual Leadership Day, a chance for the school to show off the culture it has developed under The Leader in Me program.

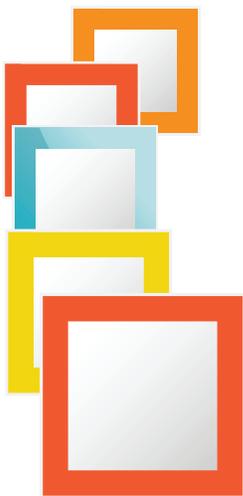


The program is a whole-school transformation model that aims to empower students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in and out of school. Principles outlined in Stephen Covey's book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* play a major role in The Leader in Me school environment.

Guests are invited to visit classrooms to see how the program is integrated school-wide. Students will make presentations throughout the building, discussing various aspects of the leadership program.

The event is Friday, May 12, from 8:30am-11am. The opening assembly will take place in the school gym.

## EVENING OF ART



The fourth annual Evening of Art will be held on Monday, May 15 from 5-7pm at the Multi-Purpose room in Building 10, Bryant High School.

The show will feature approximately 300 artworks from the Bethel and Bryant Middle Schools' art students in a range of media including drawing, painting, colored pencil, marker, pen and ink, graphite, and sculpture. Prior to the show opening, artworks will be juried for award ribbons.

The event is open to the public and everyone who attends will be given a ballot to vote for their one favorite piece. Patrons will also enjoy a slide show of the artworks as well as refreshments. The Best of Show award will be announced shortly before 7pm.

Please come out and support our amazing middle level art students!

## SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

Many parents depend on school programs for healthy meals and struggle in the summer to meet their children's nutritional needs.

We want to continue offering healthy meals for these children and others in the community during the summer months. Within this program, every child — every single child — gets free breakfast and lunch. All children (18 years and younger) eat free at these sites. No one has to qualify or sign up to attend. Just come hungry!

All parents have to do is get their children to one of the following sites:

### June 5-July 28\*

**Geyer Springs First Baptist Church**  
12400 Interstate 30, Little Rock  
**Alexander Community Center**  
15202 West Azalea, Alexander

### June 5-August 2\*

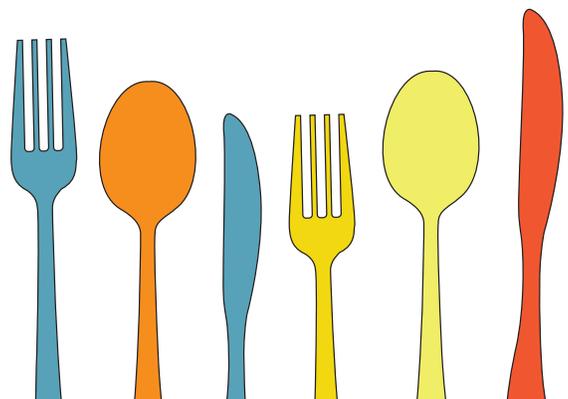
**Boys and Girls Club of Bryant**  
6401 Boone Road, Bryant

\*Meals will not be served the week of July 3-7.

### Meals Served Monday-Friday

Breakfast: 7:30-9:00am  
Lunch: 11:30am-1pm

MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL CHILDREN FREE OF CHARGE AND ARE THE SAME FOR ALL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX AGE, OR DISABILITY, AND THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION IN THE COURSE OF THE MEAL SERVICE.



## SUCCESSstories

Join us in celebrating the success of Bryant students and staff:

BHS and BMS teams competed at VEX Worlds earning three Energy Awards and Division Semi-Finalist.

Junior Mikaela Monahan earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting.

BHS photographers had 14 of the 85 winning entries in the national Jostens Photo Contest.

Bryant High School's yearbook, *Hornet*, has been recognized for excellence and featured in the 2017 Jostens Look Book, celebrating the best-of-the-best in yearbook design.

Congratulations to Carissa Colclasure who received 4th place on the Chemistry Olympiad competition. Honorable mention also goes to Jared James (11th place) and Dillon Hubbard (12th place).

Congratulations to the SpES 4th grade Quiz Bowl Team for winning first place in the district competition.

Kaleb Turner signed to play basketball with Central Christian College.

Six BHS students placed and qualified for FBLA national competitions: Julia Nall - 1st place in Journalism; Decatur Austin, Ben Wharburton, Vance Hill - 4th place in Mobile App Development; Jacob Reynolds & Spencer Rhoden - 3rd place Sports/Entertainment Management.

Romen Martin signed to play basketball at Harding University.

In the SCCC Arkansas SkillsUSA competition, Elizabeth Milam earned gold in Professional Portfolio and will be eligible to compete in National SkillsUSA; Trinita Johnson was elected as an Arkansas State SkillsUSA officer.

Student Senate helped raise over 800 items for our campus food pantry.

Congratulations to the BHS Select Choirs for their outstanding performances and recognitions at the State Choral Performance Assessment: Freshman Advanced and Honeybees received straight Division I Superior ratings. Honeybees were also a Sweepstakes Winner!

Art Club students attend AYAA (Arkansas Young Artists Association) competition where they submitted work in 76 categories. Twenty-nine awards were earned along with three scholarships.

Seth Tucker will continue his education and baseball career at Hendrix College.

Math Olympiad Champions from Davis Elementary include Christian Riggins, Jamison Lewis, Isabella Sharp and Johnny Sumpter.

John Carder will continue his education and cross country/track career at Arkansas State University.

Calvin Allen will continue his education and basketball career at College of the Ozarks.

BHS Film Production produced a video, *One in Four*, for the Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas to help spread awareness against domestic violence.

Congratulations to juniors Amber Broadhurst and Julia Williams. Amber placed 2nd in the Arkansas ACLU Bill of Rights Essay Contest and Julia placed 3rd.

Congratulations to BHS yearbook and newspaper staff members and A/V Tech & Film students for winning 107 awards at the annual Arkansas Scholastic Press Association.

Bryant Middle School's *Sting* yearbook staff took home the highest honor awarded by Arkansas Scholastic Press Association, All-Arkansas. Students earned awards in writing, design, photography, special coverage, theme development and several prestigious "Of the Year" titles.

Eight freshmen yearbook staff members won individual awards at the Arkansas Scholastic Press Association's Spring Convention. The staff earned Superior in Special Coverage and Best of ASPA, Superior in Theme Development, and Excellent in Cover Design.

Six BMS students won ribbons in the Saline County Youth Art Show.

Congratulations to the Senior Boys track team for winning the 7A Central Conference Track Championship.

At the 3rd Annual Refashion Bash, HCES student Sabrina Santos won first place; 3rd place winner was Ainslee Theodore with designers Gabby Webb and Anna Bell Maness; and YEA Leader of the Year Award was Derrick Preziosi.

Bree Hood signed a commitment letter to attend and participate in Cross Country and Track at Louisiana Tech University.

Katherine Goins will continue her academic and cross county career at the University of the Ozarks.

Congratulations to the Lady Hornets Softball team, 7A Central Conference Champions!

find more  
SUCCESSstories



### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MAY 25

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

### MOVING >>> >>> FORWARD

Want to keep up-to-date on the facilities projects for the district? Your investment in Bryant Schools makes this progress possible!

Visit [bryantschools.org/facilities](http://bryantschools.org/facilities) for updates and progress of the projects!