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HOME OF THE CHICKASAWS

BLYTHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

A periodic newsletter produced by the
BHS Journalism / Media team: "The Arrow"



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

KAYDEN KINSEY

Kayden Kinsey's high school journey has been shaped by growth, perseverance, and learning to believe in himself. His favorite memory comes from his 10th grade basketball season, where long practices and shared challenges helped shape his work ethic and teamwork skills.

Kinsey enjoys English and describes himself as hardworking, easygoing, and motivated. One of the most important lessons he learned in high school is that people and situations change, and success comes from adapting and staying focused.

Kinsey credits Mr. B, a former teacher, as one of his biggest influences for preparing him for the real world and encouraging him to never give up. Reaching his senior year is one of Kinsey's proudest accomplishments. After graduation, Kinsey plans to enlist as an 11B Infantryman in the U.S. Army and pursue mechanical engineering, with a strong interest in vehicles.

"If you went back and erased all the mistakes you've made, you'd eventually erase yourself."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

MALACHI KINSEY

Malachi Kinsey describes himself as a positive student who enjoys science and math, especially because his teachers make learning easier and are understanding. One of his favorite high school memories was visiting colleges and exploring options for life after graduation.

One of Kinsey's biggest challenges is math, but he learned that he can work hard and succeed. He credits BHS counselor Mr. Moore as his most influential mentor, especially after transferring schools near the end of last year. ***"He's very understanding,"*** Kinsey said, noting how Mr. Moore helped him get settled and supported him during the transition.

Kinsey is most proud of earning straight A's in his 11th-grade year. After graduation, he plans to join the U.S. Coast Guard and continue his education. A fun fact about Kinsey is that he enjoys singing and dancing.

"If I work very hard and do very good I can achieve good things in life."



BLYTHEVILLE BASEBALL

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Blytheville High School hosted baseball tryouts on January 12 at 4 p.m. This year, Joshua Plunkett will be coaching the team. During tryouts, 15 players showed up. He assessed what the boys could already do and how they responded to coaching, as well as their respect for their teammates, regardless of their actual athletic abilities.

“You cannot get better at whatever it is you decide to do without having a strong work ethic and a good attitude towards your coaches and teammates.”

This season, Coach Plunkett is hoping to improve Blytheville’s baseball program by getting more students interested in it, rather than just football or basketball. He hopes that the players can gain sportsmanship and leadership skills, ***“all things that will not only help with athletics but also with life after high school.”***



“Our coach Josh Plunkett is a great coach,” stated Johnny Moore, the catcher for Blytheville’s baseball team for the past 3 years. He continued by saying,

“We will compete at a high level, and I’m excited to see how far we can go this season.”





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Y'QURIA WILLIAMS

Y'quria Williams was born in West Memphis, Arkansas, and raised in Blytheville. Williams describes herself as being confident, outgoing, and ambitious, stating that she is always curious and loves discovering random things. Williams enjoys the fun things at BHS, highlighting homecoming games, spirit weeks, and pep rallies as some of her favorite experiences. On the academic side, Williams enjoys culinary class with Ms. Kim Byrd the most because she gets the opportunity to showcase her cooking skills. When asked about her inspiration, Williams cited her mother as her greatest inspiration for her qualities of selfless strength and steadfast resilience.

"[My mom's] ability to navigate life's challenges with grace and a 'never-give-up' attitude serves as my daily blueprint for perseverance."

After high school, Williams plans to serve in the Army, and later attend Lincoln University. She states that in order to overcome challenges in school, it's all about the mindset of an individual. She says that one can train their mind to view every setback as a "teacher in rough clothes." She believes that if one can do this, it will allow them to rise up with more wisdom and a stronger sense of purpose.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

CHRISTOPHER SIMS

Band Director

Christopher Sims teaches music to students in grades 9–12, including instrumental music and music lab. Originally from Warren, Arkansas, he graduated from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. His interest in music began early. ***"As a little kid, everyone wants to be a doctor or a lawyer,"*** he said, ***"but somewhere around middle school, I knew I wanted to be a music teacher or performer."***

Before coming to Blytheville High School, Sims worked at several schools assisting music programs, freelanced as a musician, and arranged music for high school bands. He learned about the opening through a friend and accepted the position shortly before the school year began. One of his main challenges is rebuilding the band program after the pandemic.

Despite the challenges, Sims finds the work at BHS rewarding. ***"Seeing the light come on for a student and making that connection with them through music"*** is his favorite part of the job. He manages stress by leaving work at school and prioritizing his well-being. ***"I maintain my peace,"*** he said, noting that music is his comfort zone. Outside of school, he enjoys playing video games and listening to music and lives by the quote, ***"When words fail, music speaks."***



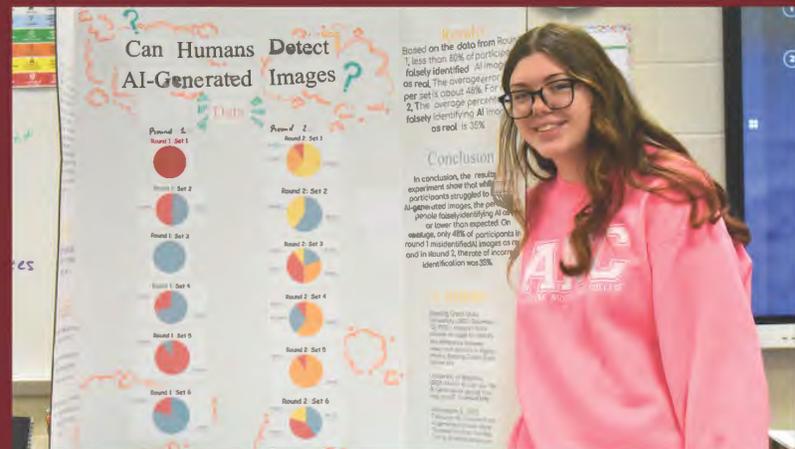


SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS

Each year, all science classes dedicate a period of time to choosing, conducting, and presenting a science fair project. Science fair projects are chosen strictly by the students, ranging from experimental to research. These projects help encourage critical thinking and problem solving skills as students design experiments, test hypotheses, and analyze data. The hands-on nature of these projects makes learning more engaging. In addition to promoting curiosity and creativity, science fair projects often inspire students to pursue further studies or careers in STEM fields and gives students a glimpse into the process of real world scientific discovery.



Above: AP Biology student, Maliyah Jones, explaining her project over sugar dissolving rate.

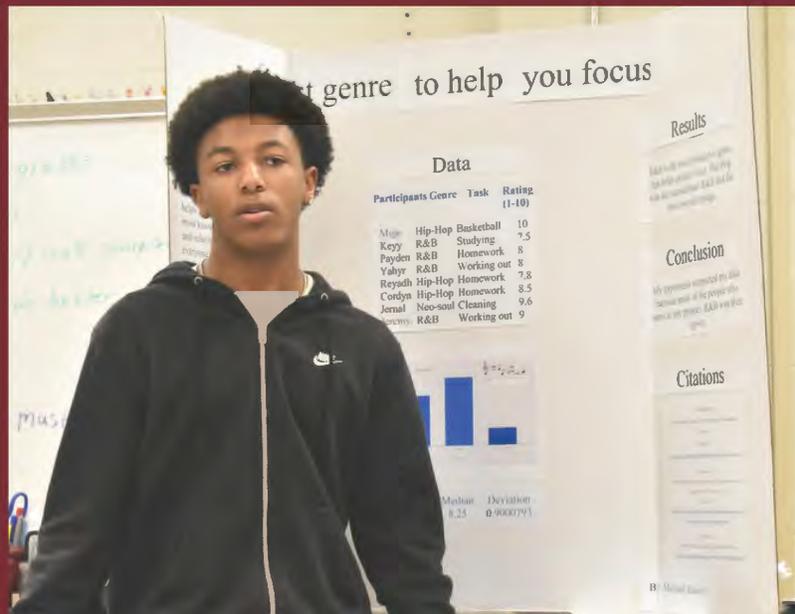
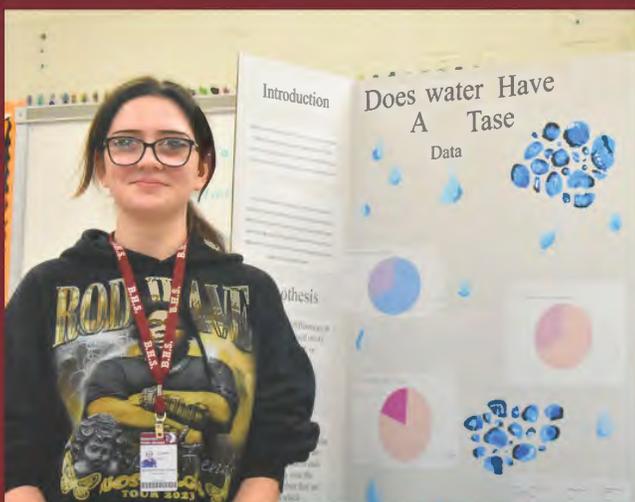


Sydney Scott, a junior Anatomy and Physiology student and participant of the science fair, shares, "I like to see others' thought processes in choosing their projects and their creativity. It gives the students more opportunities to express their scientific curiosities."

"Science fair gives my students exposure to how science is conducted in the real world. It builds their critical thinking and problem-solving skills," says Madison Groves, Life Sciences teacher. "I like to see my students explore topics that are interesting to them personally, and conduct experiments on how they see fit."

SCIENCE FAIR

Below: Anatomy and Pyshiology student, Cadence Polk, displaying her presentation over water tase.



Participants	Genre	Task	Rating (1-10)
Mia	Hip-Hop	Basketball	10
Key	R&B	Studying	7.5
Payden	R&B	Homework	8
Yahyr	R&B	Working out	8
Reyadh	Hip-Hop	Homework	7.8
Codyn	Hip-Hop	Homework	8.5
Jernal	Noo-soul	Cleaning	9.6
Jeremy	R&B	Working out	9



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

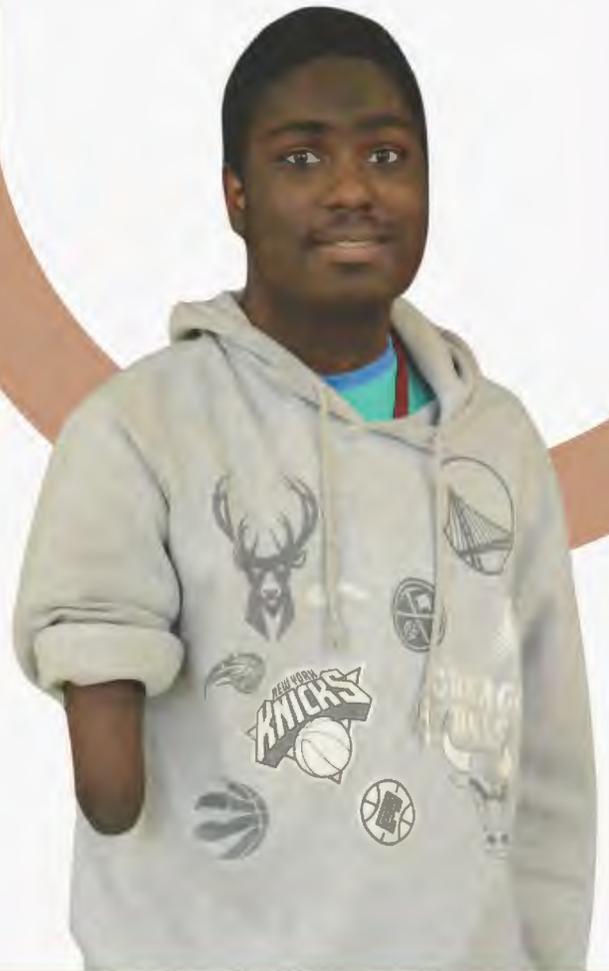
ADRIAN JACKSON

Adrian Jackson has been attending the Blytheville School district for 12 years. Jackson's hobbies are playing drums, video games, and Martial Arts. At school, he mostly enjoys listening to music and music class.

Jackson's biggest accomplishment in high school so far is becoming a black belt in Martial Arts. He is most inspired by his master, Anthony Smith. His words to the underclassmen are, ***"Do your work. Trust me, you don't want to be here next year."***

A fun fact about Jackson is that he plays the drums. After high school, Jackson plans to join the police force. If he decides to go to college instead, he would like to major in law. Jackson will mostly miss not being required to do taxes after he graduates. His favorite motivational quote is:

"Just Do It."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

KADAYJA HODGES

Kadayja Hodges has been attending the Blytheville School District since the 7th grade. She has been active in FCCLA as the secretary for two years. Hodges is inspired by her cousin, Nicole Eskin, because of her constant motivation and encouragement to keep going. Hodges's biggest accomplishment in high school so far is putting herself in the best position to be successful by being aware of the company she keeps.

After high school, she plans to join the military and enlist in the National Guard. After enlisting, she would like to go to college and work at Nucor. Hodges advice to the underclassmen is, ***"Don't rush your journey or compare it to anyone else's. Use these years to mess up, learn, grow, and figure out who you are. Show up even on the hard days, because the effort you put in now builds the confidence you'll carry for the rest of your life."***

Hodges will mostly miss her friends, Adreonna, Ky'mara, Ke'niayah, and Dee after graduation because everyone will be separated and chasing their dreams. Her favorite quote is, ***"Don't let where you start decide where you finish. Every day you show up and try, you're already moving closer to who you're meant to become. Rock out alone because ain't none to it but to do it!"***





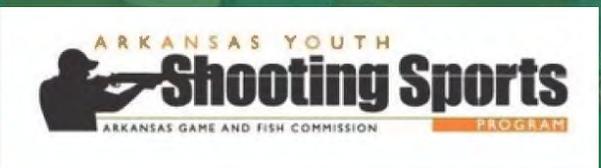
Trap Season Begins Feb. 1

SPRING TRAP SHOOTING

**Sign up with Candice Groves, Coach
Registration paperwork is due by Friday, January 23.**

Practices will be held on Saturday mornings from February through May. You must attend at least 5 practices to be eligible to compete. The YSS Regional Competition will be held in Jacksonville on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

There is no charge to participate, however, if you do not already have your Hunter's Education License, you must complete the online course to become eligible.



Visit the AGFC website to sign up for the Hunter's Education Online Course.
<https://www.agfc.com/education/hunter-education/>



ADMINISTRATOR SPOTLIGHT

LOUISE DAVIS

Louise Davis was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, a city that instilled in her a never-give-up spirit and deep appreciation for community. The values she learned growing up in Detroit have shaped her approach to education and leadership, driving her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of students.

Davis graduated from Mackenzie High School in Detroit before pursuing higher education. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Davis went on to complete her Educational Specialist degree, also at Arkansas State University, equipping her with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in her career.

After relocating to Joiner, Arkansas, and gaining valuable experience in the Rivercrest School District, Davis received an exciting opportunity to work with the Blytheville School District. She started her journey as a Physical Education teacher at Robinson School, which was crucial in shaping her career. Over the years, she held various positions, from Robinson to West Junior High, where she also coached. Her dedication and leadership eventually led her to become the Assistant Principal at Blytheville Middle School. She currently serves as the Director of Chickasaw Academy at BHS.



Davis describes her leadership style as "firm but fair." She believes in setting high expectations while providing ample support for her students and staff. Her passion for education stems from her upbringing in a family of educators, where teaching, mentoring, and leadership came naturally.

Davis faces the challenge of working with a diverse group of students, but she finds it rewarding to witness their growth academically, socially, and personally. She advises aspiring leaders to **"lead by example, stay teachable, and remember that true leadership is about service, not position."**

Davis emphasizes the importance of education and believing in one's potential. Outside of work, she enjoys dancing. She lives by two powerful quotes: **1 Corinthians 14:40**, highlighting her belief in structure, and **Genesis 50:20**, which reminds her to maintain faith during challenges. Her faith is also key to achieving work-life balance, as it provides her with strength and direction.



FCCLA COMPETITION & CONVENTION

On January 8, the Blytheville High School FCCLA participated in the FCCLA competition at Arkansas State University. Two groups qualified to go to the state competition in Hot Springs in April: In the category of "Say Yes to FCS," Dasia Davis won bronze. In the category of "Interior Design," Tori Stewart, Jazmyne Hill, and La'Donna King also won bronze. Each student proudly represented BHS, showcasing their leadership, teamwork, and career-readiness skills.

In addition to competing, the students had the opportunity to tour the ASU campus and participate in break-out sessions. FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) is a national student organization that helps students build leadership abilities, prepare for future careers, and give back to their communities. Through competitions and service projects, members gain real-world experience that supports personal and professional growth.





2026 #WeAreBHS



CANDIE GROVES
TEACHER/SPONSOR

MEET OUR JOURNALISM/MEDIA TEAM



RYLEY WALKER
SENIOR EDITOR
12th grade
3rd year journalist



ELLA MILLER
12th grade
3rd year journalist



RICO MOORE
12th grade
3rd year journalist



ANNIE PERDUE
12th grade
2nd year journalist



KAYA WILLIAMS
12th grade
3rd year journalist



MCKINLEY WALKER
10th grade
1st year journalist



CIERRAH SPANN
12th grade
1st year journalist



CHAD BELL
11th grade
1st year journalist



KE'NIYA WILLIAMS
11th grade
1st year journalist

Check out “The Arrow” newspaper page in the [NEA Town Courier](#) to see more about what’s happening at Blytheville High School!

BHS Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/blythevillehigh

BSD Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BlythevilleSchoolDistrict

Blytheville School District: www.blythevilleschools.com

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#WE ARE BHS