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BHS

THE ARROW

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2026-2027

CHICKASAWS



BHS OPEN HOUSE IS A SUCCESS

The open house took place on August 4, 2026. Teachers and staff prepared everything during professional development the previous week, including themselves, their classrooms, and the school. The open house allowed for the teachers and staff, as well as the students, to get a feel of the new year before it started. It also allowed them to meet and get acquainted with one another, and to see their new classrooms for the next year.

The successful open house brought together all the new staff and students, as well as those who are returning from previous years to showcase the opportunities available at BHS. The event was perfect for easing students, staff, and parents out of summer break and back to the first day of a great 2026-2027 school year.















PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

School began with professional development that took place from July 29 through August 5, 2026 on all campuses. All teachers, staff, and administrators were required to attend.







Professional development (PD) is periodic training and collaboration meetings intended to help teachers grow in knowledge and gain new skills in classroom management, classroom communities, district wide goals, and techniques to ensure a safe and educational school year. Teachers also use this time to develop or revise pacing guides, not only for students, but also for teachers.

Madison Groves, the Biology teacher at BHS, stated that she felt like this year's professional development was one of the best she's experienced during her time as a teacher at BHS. Groves also stated that it was very well organized with intentional, positive activities designed by district leaders.









Change at BHS

Setting the Bar High with an Orderly Environment and Stricter Enforcement of Rules

A new school year always brings about certain changes. Students begin new courses, and teachers get new classes of students. With the start of this new school year, staff and students are noticing many more changes around Blytheville High School; some of them are subtle, while others changes are more obvious.

The most noticeable changes, which actually began last year, are the new paint jobs around the cafeterias and hallways. Students spend a lot of time in these areas every day, so this change certainly does not go unnoticed. Students have also noticed that there are different rules or changes in the enforcment of existing rules. Arkansas lawmakers passed the Bell-to-Bell No-Cell Policy last school year, but it was difficult to enforce. This year, there is a noticable change in the classrooms as cell phones are rarely, if ever, seen in class. There is tighter enforcement of the dress code this year too. Students are no longer allowed to wear ripped pants, leggings (unless worn under a skirt), or hoods in the hallways and classrooms. Students can, however, wear shorts on Fridays as long as they are knee-length or longer.

Perhaps the most noticable change of all though is the clear backpack policy which is strictly enforced, a requirement that also extends to clear water bottles and clear lunchboxes. Changes are obvious in the classrooms as well. Students are noticing more consistency across classes with bell ringers and exit tickets for every teacher.

Each of these changes ultimately help keep the school safe by maintaining an orderly environment and allowing for better focus in the classroom, so BHS can continue to produce amazing scholars.

Senior Spotlight

Jordan Holton

Son of Nadia Wells and Brian Holton, Jordan Holton is known for his joking personality and making big plays on the football field. Holton's favorite high school memory was attending the career fair at ANC because that was when he first learned about Nucor and began thinking more seriously about his plans after high school.

Holton's favorite staff member at BHS is Robilyn Key. She has consistently kept him on track and helped him stay on top of his responsibilities. At times, her support and effort were all he needed to push through difficult moments and continue working toward his goals.

Holton is passionate about Nucor. He wants to make good money and become a provider for his family. Holton's goal is to continue playing football and earn a full-ride scholarship. He also wants to pursue a career with Nucor or find a good welding job.

Holton's advice to underclassmen is, "***Stay focused on school, even when you hate it, don't enjoy it, or feel like you are ready to quit. The discipline you build by staying committed will pay off more than you realize. Keep working toward your goals, even when the results are not immediate."***





Jamarion Richardson

Jamareon Richardson was born on July 23, 2009, in Blytheville, Arkansas. Afterwards, he and his family moved to Texarkana, where they lived for 15 years, before moving back to Blytheville in 2024.

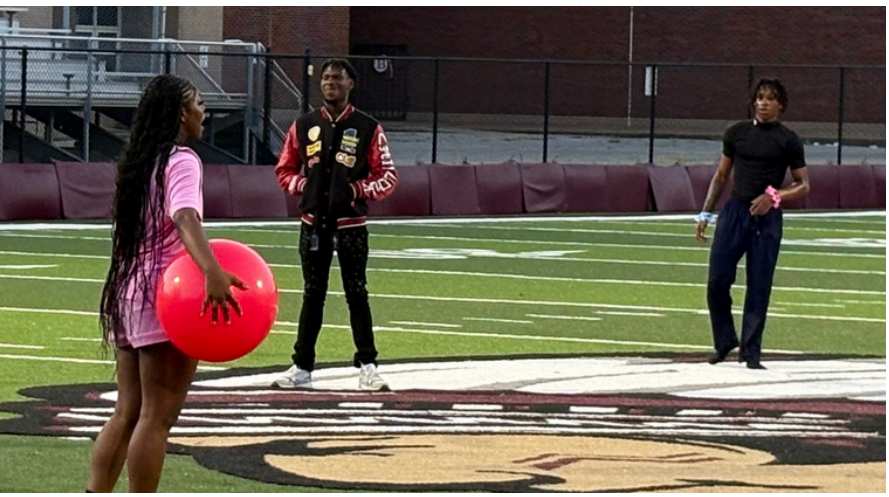
Richardson's favorite teacher is Coach Young. Jamareon loves Blytheville High School because of the fun, positive energy that he feels when walking the hallways.

Richardson's favorite subject in school is math. One of Richardson's favorite memories at Blytheville High School is when his class threw him a birthday party. Richardson said that he is grateful for his teacher, Catherine Adell. Adell said, ***"Jamareon is a very nice and respectful young man!"*** Richardson also says that he is grateful for his paraprofessionals, Nanette Hunt and Tawana Stewart.

After high school, Richardson wants to get a job, but he is still undecided on his lifelong career path.

Senior Sunrise







Senior sunrise is an event that most seniors look forward to. It's a high school tradition, a new beginning, and a new chapter to make the last “back to school” unforgettable. Senior Sunrise is a moment in time that provides 12th graders a relaxing space to reconnect with their classmates after summer break. Students enjoy taking photos and creating memories with the classmates and close friends they’ve grown up with.

This year, the seniors met at 5:00am on August 17, at the football field while the sun was still sleeping. The students brought cozy blankets and showed up wearing onesies, houseshoes, bonnets, and flashy pajamas.

Parents, teachers, and community volunteers brought donuts, McDonald's breakfast sandwiches, muffins, and drinks. Seniors played kickball, participated in a prayer circle, took selfies and group photos, and watched the sun rise on one of their last of many childhood school days.

BHS CLUBS



Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is open to students who are currently enrolled in culinary, food safety, or child development, or have previously completed any of those classes. Members have the opportunity to earn community service hours, and they are expected to participate, communicate, and respect others during club activities and events.



Blytheville FFA dues are $20 and can be paid to Nadea Massey. FFA members participate in many different events like Lights of the Delta, the upcoming ice cream social, and an end-of-the-year banquet. FFA president, Rubi Juarez, says, “[FFA] really does introduce you to leadership...I am really thankful for all my officers”



The French Club gives students an opportunity to grow leadership skills while learning more about the French language and culture and serving their community. Students who are enrolled in French class or have already completed a French class can join. Dues are $10 and can be paid to Candice Groves in Room 401.



The Science Club is an exciting way for students to explore science beyond the classroom. It is open to all students, and the $5 membership dues should be paid to Madison Groves in Room 108. In the Science Club, students can use creativity to research and do hands-on experiments over a wide variety of topics.



Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) dues are $20 and can be paid to Candice Richardson in Room 502. The roles of treasurer, reporter, and parliamentarian are currently open. Requirements include, but are not limited to, dressing professionally during competitions and/or conventions, and participating in one or more competitions.



Interact Club is about community service and leadership skills. It also offers 10th and 11th grade students the chance to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), which is sponsored by the Rotary Club. Interact Club is open to all students and dues can be paid to Madison Groves in Room 108. This year, dues are $5 or three canned goods that will be donated to the Food Pantry.

This is just a glimpse at the opportunities available at BHS. Ask your teachers or upperclassmen about more.

Staff Spotlight

Evelyn Lapinoria

Algebra I and PreCalculus



Evelyn Lapinoria grew up in the Philippines and attended the University of San Carlos, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a major in Mathematics. She decided to become a teacher because she was inspired by her high school math teacher. She came to Blytheville High School because she wants to help students learn Algebra and make a difference in their lives.

"I want to help the students learn algebra, and I want to convince them to love algebra."

Outside of school, Lapinoria enjoys playing volleyball, a sport she has loved since high school. She also hopes to start a Math Club at Blytheville High School and bring some of the fun math activities she experienced in the Philippines to her students. Her goal is to make math more enjoyable while helping students learn and grow.

Dorothy Brooks

Intro to Business



Dorothy Brooks has been a teacher at BHS for 12 years. She is from Blytheville, Arkansas, and she is passionate about teaching. After graduating from Blytheville High School, Brooks went on to earn a Bachelor of Business Administration from Ashford University. She later earned a Master's in Teaching degree with an emphasis in Business Technology from the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Brooks has taught a variety of classes at BHS, including Intro to Business, Personal Finance, Survey of Business, Financial Planning, and Marketing & Analytics. BHS helped shape her into the woman she is today and made her desire to teach here even stronger.

"***I want my students to dream it, plan it, brand it, build it, boss it, and dream big."***

Some of her hobbies include singing, shopping, and line dancing. She loves to sing out in her free time as a way to wind down. Aside from teaching, Brooks also sponsors the Target Club and co-sponsors FBLA with Candice Richardson.





BHS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

After weeks of preparation through practices and scrimmages, the BHS girls' volleyball team officially kicked off their season this week with an away game agains Delta C-7 in Missouri.

The girls use different techniques to help them mentally prepare for games. Some of them listen to music, some of them pray, but their most important technique is maintaining a positive attitude. They also make sure they have enough energy for the game by eating and drinking. Coach Craig O'Neal prepares the girls by working on their conditioning and fundamentals.

Although the team took all the right measures to prepare themselves, their Delta C-7 opponent put the pressure on early, proving it a tough first outing as the team ultimately walked away with a loss. Despite it all, the girls still kept a positive attitude, accepting this loss as a learning experience. Through strong teamwork, they are already working to identify areas for improvement, particularly in their defensive rotations and serve receive formations. They are motivated to tighten up their communication and bounce back stronger in their next match.





A Summer in France

June 15th - 23rd, 2026



Château de Chambord



American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer



The Eiffel Tower in Paris

This summer, six Blytheville High School students traveled to France. These students were recent graduates, Cierrah Spann and Ryley Walker, and juniors, Olivia Burks, Za'Niya Fowler, Cheyenna Nealey, and McKinley Walker. They were accompanied by BHS teachers, Candice Groves and Madison Groves, as well as volunteer Tonya Harris. On Monday, June 15, 2026, the students met at the Memphis International Airport (MEM) and flew to the Atlanta International Airport (ATL). From there, the students took an overnight flight to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France. After their arrival, the group started their first day in Paris by meeting their tour manager, who took them to drop off their luggage at the hotel, and then on a walking adventure to see the Notre-Dame Cathedral. On day 2, the students went on a city sightseeing tour through Paris. This bus tour was followed by a walking tour of Île Saint-Louis, a Paris painting lesson, and a visit to the top of the Eiffel Tower. In the evening, the students took a boat cruise down the Seine River, where they could see the Eiffel Tower and other famous landmarks of Paris.

On their final day in Paris, the students went to the Louvre, the largest art museum in the world, where they saw famous artwork like the Mona Lisa. They continued their journey in France with a stop at the Palace of Versailles, and then they traveled through the Loire Valley to Tours, France, pausing briefly to see the Chartres Cathedral on the way. The next day, the students traveled to the Château de Chenonceau, Amboise, and the Château de Chambord. Continuing their travels, the students spent half a day at the famous Mont St. Michel before arriving in the walled city of St. Malo on the northern coast of France. Upon leaving St. Malo, the students took a charter bus to Normandy where they visited several famous sites of WWII, including Mulberry Harbor and Omaha Beach. The students also visited the Arromanches 360 Cinema and the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Finally, the students returned to Paris for a final evening in France including one last visit to the Eiffel Tower to see it sparkling over the Paris skyline. On June 23, the students returned to the United States with memories to last them a lifetime.

The beach in St. Malo, France



Palace of Versailles



Château de Chenonceau



Senior Spotlight

Shalen Gillespie

Shalen Gillespie, a passionate basketball player at Blytheville High School, is eagerly looking forward to the upcoming season.

Gillespie is known as a bubbly person who can always lighten up the room. He takes pride in his school and always strives to do better.

Gillespie's main goal this year is not only to excel on the court, but also to finish school with all A's, balancing his academic and athletic commitments. He hopes that his performance will lead to scholarship opportunities that could shape his future.

One of Gillespie's favorite basketball memories is the unforgettable experience of being part of the team that advanced to the state tournament. This journey deepened his love for the game and spurred him on to aim even higher. As he prepares for this year's season, Gillespie is determined to give it his all, striving to win a state championship with his team before he graduates. For Gillespie, this year is about making the most of every moment and leaving a lasting legacy at his school.



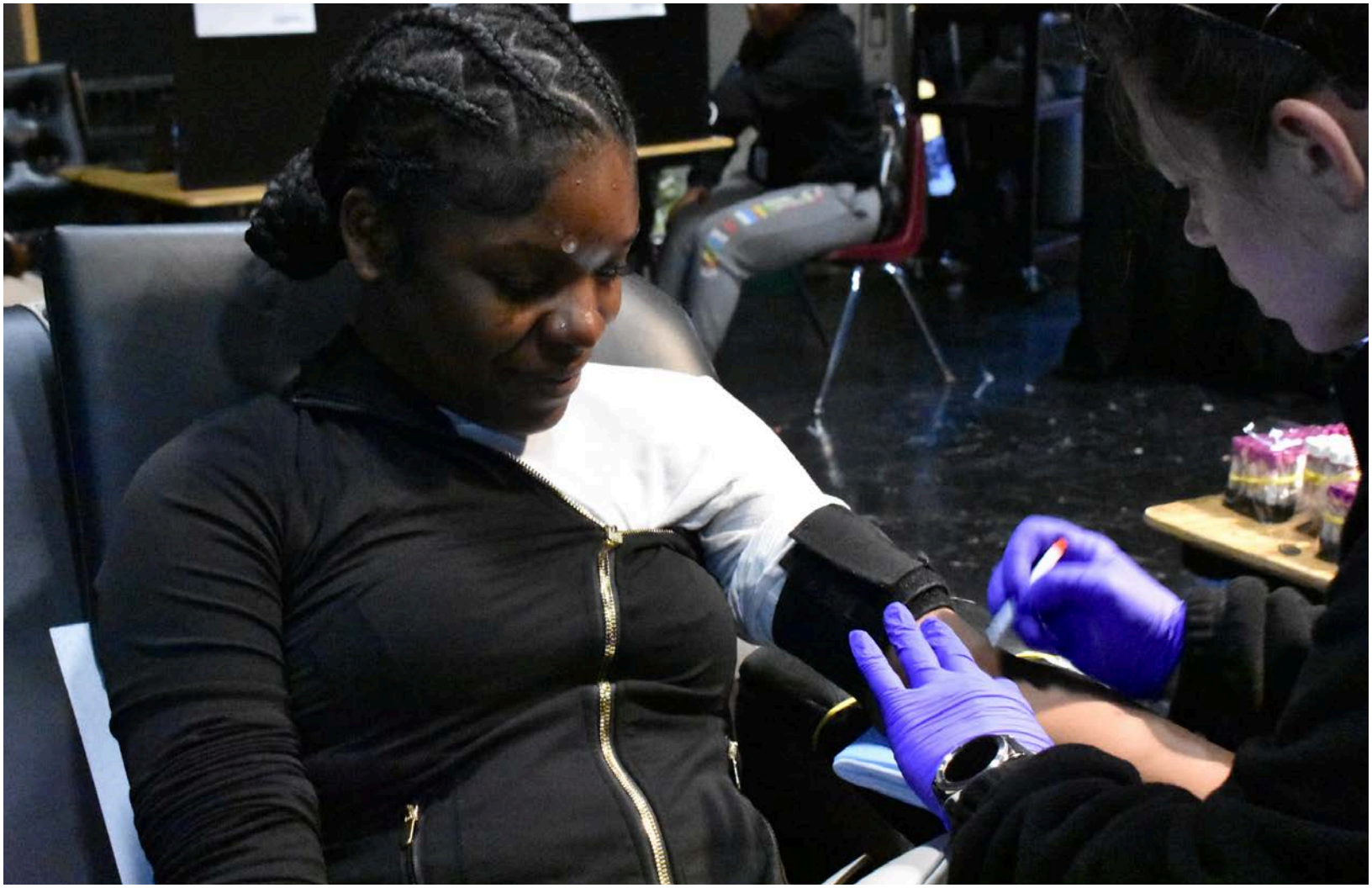


Diamond Reed

Diamond Reed was born in Memphis, TN, and has attended Blytheville School District for nearly her whole life. Her favorite part about attending BHS is getting to know everybody on her first day of 10th grade after attending Osceola School District during her 9th grade year.

Reed says other people would describe her as caring and outgoing. After high school, she plans to attend Arkansas State University while serving part-time in the military and majoring in the medical field. After college, she plans to go to medical school and "become the world's best surgeon." Reed says that her mom is the biggest influence in her everyday life and that she pushes her to persevere. Reed is active around the school, participating in clubs such as FCCLA, FBLA, Target, Trio, Science Interact, and cheer.

Reed's advice to the freshman is, "Don't be afraid to start something new. High school is a fresh chapter—make mistakes, learn from them, stay true to yourself, and remember that your first year doesn't define your whole story."





Community Service Learning

Many students at BHS love to give back through community service. Community service is the unpaid act of contributing time, money, or services to help others and improve the community. It is also a way for students to help themselves and earn community service hours.

Arkansas state law requires every high school student to earn a minimum of 75 hours to graduate, 15 hours freshman year and 20 hours each year after.

There are many opportunities for students to earn hours such as helping their teachers out after school, working in the concession stand at games, volunteering with school clubs, and volunteering with approved community organizations.
Community service not only gives the hours they need, but it can also benefit students in other ways. Community service can improve mental health, relieve stress, teach important life skills, and it can also improve the community as a whole.

Katon Hill

Computer Science & Head FB Coach

Katon Hill is originally from Cherry Valley, where he attended Cross County before transferring to and graduating from Jonesboro. Hill earned a Bachelors in Sports Mgmt and a Masters in Sports Administration from Arkansas State University.

Hill says he is a dedicated educator, coach, and mentor who believes in hard work, accountability, and putting community first. ***"Whether in the classroom or under the Friday night lights, I'm someone who is fully invested in helping young people grow into high-character leaders."***

Hill's goal is to support students both academically and athletically, build strong relationships across the district, and bring a relentless work ethic that helps raise the standard in everything BHS does. Hill enjoys seeing students and student-athletes realize their own potential. Seeing kids work through tough challenges in the classroom or on the field and finally having that lightbulb moment is what makes teaching and coaching so rewarding.

"I saw an opportunity to build something special, invest in these kids, and lead a program that the entire Chickasaw community can be proud of."

Staff Spotlight

Marcus Woodson

World History & Psychology



As a new teacher at BHS, Marcus Woodson, brings a strong commitment to community and positive student mentorship. Woodson was born in Jonesboro and raised in Marked Tree. He holds a degree from Arkansas State University, and he currently teaches World History and Psychology.

Inspired by the lasting impact of his teachers and coaches, Woodson chose teaching to give back to the next generation. Woodson deeply appreciates the welcoming administration and vibrant sense of community that defines BHS. His main goal for the school year is simple: show up every day ready to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the students.

If allowed to teach any other subject or grade, Woodson's favorite subject from his own school days, 9th-grade Civics, would be his top choice.

Outside of school hours, Woodson loves to rest, naming sleep as his favorite free-time activity. He is guided by the motivational words of Drake, "Started from the bottom, now we're here," because they bring both humor and heart to the BHS campus. If he could give advice to his younger self, Woodson offered a humorous yet practical financial tip to, "buy as much Bitcoin as possible, as early as possible."



American Red Cross

Share Your Big Hearts.

Give Blood.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive

If you would like to sign up, scan the QR code that is posted on flyers around the school. Students who are 16, need to have a parent or guardian consent form that can be picked up from Ms. Richardson.

Friday, September 4
10am-2pm
BHS Auditorium

Lifetouch

Picture Day is coming!

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Picture Day will include standard photos for all 9th-11th graders and all staff members, as well as tux and drape photos for all seniors. Senior males need to wear a white undershirt and senior females need to wear a tank top or camisole to facilitate rapid wardrobe changes.

*Makeup picture day will be Dec. 2, 2026



BSD Back To School Bash

Blytheville School District hosted its annual Back to School Bash on Friday, July 21, 2026, in the Chickasaw Arena with the help of numerous faculty, staff, and community volunteers. The event included activities and giveaways for students, as well as information and registration packets for parents and guardians.

Among some of the activities, there were bouncy houses, games, and free snowcones.

The BSD would like to thank everyone who made the Back to School Bash possible, including those who contributed time, set up information booths, and donated items to be given to students and their families to make “back to school” a little bit easier.













Back To School Bash Providers & Participants

Dawson Employment Service
Mississippi County Library System
East Arkansas Family Health Center-Healthy Partners
Acts Of Hope/ The Daddy Lacy Project
Delta behavioral health
Arkansas Department of Transportation
J's gaming and Party Zone
Blytheville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated
The Reform Alliance
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Arkansas State University-Transfer Admissions
Blytheville Fire Department
FM Bank & Trust
Arkansas State University
Southern Bancorp
Mississippi County Juvenile Office
Morning Star Church
Arkansas Department of Health
DHS
TRIO EOC (Educational Opportunity Center)
Healing In the Hood, Inc
100 Families
Taking It To The Streets Ministries
New Immanuel MB Church
East Arkansas Family Health Center (Healthy Partners
Tenaris After School Program
Healing in the Hood
Arisa Health
h.i.s. ministries outreach
T-mobile
Families, Inc. Counseling Services
Blytheville Police Department
Wellspring Church
ANC Tech Center
Arkansas northeastern College
Research Solutions Inc. (Regional Prevention Provider)
Blytheville Middle School
BHS
Blytheville Elementary School
Mississippi County Literacy Council
City of Blytheville
US Army Recruiting
ANC Educational Talent Search (TRIO)
Morning Star Baptist Church
Pepsi Mid America
Sonic
Ruddle Road Church of God
New Faith MB Church
Chickasaw Athletics
The Haven
Jacks Restaurant
First Choice Home Health
El Centro Hispano
First United Pentecostal Church
Delta Gateway Museum
First United Methodist Church
Restore 72315
MCEOC
Legacy Hospice
NUCOR

Additional Donations

Hays & Tim Russell
Wellsprings Church
Walmart
Black Hills Energy
Blytheville Ministerial Alliance
New Mt Olive Church
Samaritan's Life Center
Kenjarvis Cross
The Blytheville Book Store
Hubbard & Hoke
Restore 72315
Lowe's
ROEHM America
Arkansas North Eastern College

Thank You

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Journalism I-III
Yearbook & Newsletter

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2nd year journalist



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12th grade
2nd year journalist



MAKHILA WILKINS
12th grade
1st year journalist

JUNIORS



DASHAWN BARNETT
11th grade
1st year journalist



SYRIAH CLARK
11th grade
1st year journalist



OCTAVEYAH MCKILLION
11th grade
1st year journalist



CHEYANNA NEALEY
11th grade
1st year journalist



PAICYN PANKEY
11th grade
1st year journalist



MCKINLEY WALKER
11th grade
2nd year journalist
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1st year journalist



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1st year journalist



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10th grade
1st year journalist



CORDERO ROGERS
10th grade
1st year journalist



ADDISON TAYLOR
10th grade
1st year journalist

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