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26**

HOME OF THE CHICKASAWS

BLYTHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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



FIRST THINGS FIRST

BLYTHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Blytheville High School officially launched the 2025-2026 school year with a new twist on its traditional "First Things First" event. On Tuesday, August 12, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., students, parents, and guardians gathered in the Blytheville High School auditorium for First Things First: Pathways to Success Night. These events focused on preparing students for academic success, future planning, and connecting families with the support system available at school. Attendees had the opportunity to meet teachers, explore academic pathways and CTE programs, learn about graduation requirements, and ask questions to better understand the resources available. School leaders also shared new policies and expectations for the upcoming school year, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between educators, students, and families. The events underscored the school's commitment to helping students pursue multiple post-graduation pathways, including higher education, enlistment in the military, and direct entry into employment.

"Let's make it a great year!"

***- Mary Jackson,
BHS Principal***



BLYTHEVILLE VARSITY FOOTBALL

CHICKASAWS SET THEIR SIGHTS ON VICTORY

Blytheville Chickasaws' new head coach, Rod Stinson, says fans can expect one thing this season: consistency.

"We want our kids to be consistent and work hard. Those are the traits that help in football and in life."

Stinson's long-term goal is to build one of the best programs in 4A, and eventually in the state. With only a few seniors, underclassmen like Jatavion Wilson and Jordan Holton, are stepping into big roles. As seniors, Courtney Rogers, Johmir Guyton, and Nate King are key players.



BLYTHEVILLE FOOTBALL 2025 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Sept. 5	Osceola	Home
Sept. 12	Nettleton	Home
Sept. 26	Cave City	Home
Oct. 3	Westside	Away
Oct. 10	Highland	Home
Oct. 17	Gosnell	Away
Oct. 24*	Trumann	Home
Oct. 31	Pocahontas	Home
Nov. 7	Southside	Away

"Our number one goal is graduation. If they're disciplined and consistent, the sky's the limit."

- Rod Stinson



NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

With the start of a new school year, joining clubs is heavily encouraged! This 2025-2026 year has a variety of clubs to offer to all students!



BHS CLUBS & HONOR SOCIETIES

- Art Club
- BETA Club
- FBLA
- FCCLA
- FFA
- French Club
- Interact Club
- Science Club
- Science National Honor Society
- Société Honoraire de Français
- Student Council
- Target Club
- National Honor Society





SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

KHIA PARNELL

Among the many remarkable seniors at Blytheville High, Khia Parnell stands out as an intelligent young lady who strives to do her best in everything she does. Parnell is an active student, participating in Cheerleading, Interact Club, FCCLA, FBLA, Target, and TRIO, and she serves as the vice president of the Choir. Outside of school, Khia is stays busy with work and community service activities at her church, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist.

When asked what she's looking forward to this school year, Parnell said she's looking forward to graduating from both high school and ANC, as she is a part of the Early College program that Blytheville High offers. She wants to encourage underclassmen to ***"Stay in class, stay on top of your work and don't disrespect your teachers."***

With faith, family, and a focus on her goals, Parnell plans to become successful and shine as a BHS alumni.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

NIKKI GLASS

Special Education Teacher

Nikki Glass is a special education teacher at Blytheville High School. She has a husband, two sons, a dog, and a cat. Although she is one of the newest teachers at BHS, Glass is not new to the district, as this is her 5th year in Blytheville Public Schools. When asked why she came to BHS, Glass said she made her transfer for a new experience.

Glass knew that she wanted to become a Special Ed. teacher in high school. She had friends who were in Special Ed., and although they wanted to learn multiplication, their teacher refused to teach them. That's when Glass stepped in and taught them, thus inspiring her to pursue her teaching career.

Glass enjoys video games, reading, and technology. She hopes to see academic growth this year and celebrations for one another. Glass said one thing she likes about our Chickasaw tribe is that the teachers come together as a family. No one has to worry about fitting in, because everyone fits in. With her passion for education and commitment to creating a supportive environment, Mrs. Glass is sure to excell at Blytheville High!



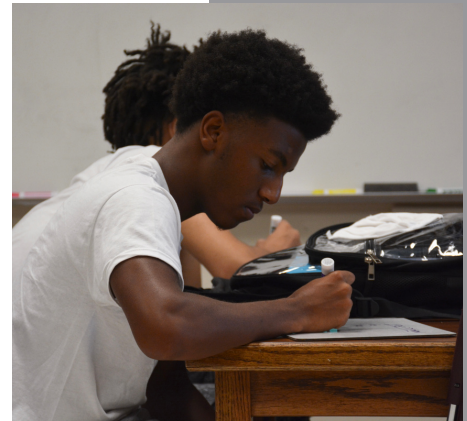


BELL TO BELL, NO CELL

Starting with the 2025-2026 school year, the Arkansas "Bell to Bell, No Cell Act" is being enforced at Blytheville High School. Established in February, Act 122 bans on all smartphones and other personal electronic devices in Arkansas public schools. This statewide act was created to reduce the use of smartphones in classrooms and decrease distractions during instructional time.

While most teachers view this act as a positive change to the school environment, students have mixed opinions on the issue. Some students acknowledge that the change has increased student participation, socialization, and attention. Other students feel that this act is very restrictive and denies them their ability to quickly contact their guardians in emergencies.

While enforcing this act may initially encounter rough patches, it brings emphasis to the need for more attentive learning and reduces excess use of technology in schools.



Do you have a great story idea? Want to see your club, activity, or event featured in our newsletter? Email us at cgroves@blythevilleschools.net.



SENIOR NATIONAL BETA CLUB

BHS BETA CLUB CONTINUES TO SHINE

Blytheville School District is proud to announce that Blytheville High School is a 2024-2025 National Beta School of Merit. The school earned this recognition by offering National Beta to all eligible grades on their campus.

The National Beta School of Merit award is given to honor a club's dedication and commitment to academic excellence. To achieve this prestigious honor, a school must include members from all eligible grade levels in their Beta club. This year 5,930 Beta Clubs across the country received this award.

In a congratulatory letter to the school, Bobby Hart, CEO said "Thank you for your continued support of National Beta and commitment to developing future leaders!"

ABOUT NATIONAL BETA

With more than 500,000 active members and 14,000 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, and fosters leadership skills. National Elementary Beta includes grades 4-5, National Junior Beta includes grades 6-8 and National Senior Beta includes grades 9-12. Visit betaclub.org for more information.





COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

Community Service Learning (CSL) empowers students to connect academic lessons with community needs through hands-on service projects. Every CSL assignment includes three stages—getting ready, doing the work, and taking time afterward to think and grow—for both the young person and their community to gain something valuable from the effort.

CSL was created to build informed young adults who accept responsibility and to help build a sense of community. By asking learners to connect coursework to real-life help, Arkansas schools, such as Blytheville High School, aim to graduate students who see service not as extra work, but as a natural, rewarding part of living and learning.



To make CSL a priority, the General Assembly passed two laws. Students who will earn a diploma in 2026 must finish 75 logged service hours between grades 9 and 12 in order to count one credit. From the class of 2027 onward, those 75 hours will instead be a diploma condition. The statutes, codified as Acts 237 and 720 of 2023, are the formal first step in making service learning an everyday part of the academic day.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

REZO JEFFERSON

Rezo Lamar Jefferson is known for his quiet, yet outgoing approach to everyday life. Rezo says he has made the most of his high school years through friendship, growth, and involvement. Rezo is an active member of FFA and Trap Shooting. For Rezo, FFA is more than the club. He's made most of his favorite memories in high school by attending FFA conventions. ***"I like the people in it and the experiences the club offers,"*** he says. Rezo is proud to be on the Trap Shooting squad. "It's so satisfying to hit the targets and watch them blow up," Rezo exclaims. His proudest memory in Trap was when he hit a 41/50 during a competition in Jacksonville.

Rezo says that Madison Groves and Ben Rutherford are the teachers who had the most impact on his high school experience. Outside of school, Rezo enjoys gaming. His favorite games include Elden Ring, Dark Souls III, and Armored Core VI.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

KIM BYRD

Culinary Arts & Food Safety Teacher

Kim Byrd has 23 years of dedication to the Blytheville School District. Currently, she teaches 9-12 grade Culinary, Food Safety and Nutrition, and Dynamics of Human Relations courses. She is also the sponsor of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America). Byrd hopes that her students know she truly cares for them, and that they can walk out of her classroom equipped with life skills.

"Seeing the bulb above a kid's head light up when they grasp what I'm teaching motivates me."

Some of Byrd's greatest personal and professional accomplishments are being honored as BHS's Teacher of the Year and earning her National Board Certification. Outside of the classroom, Kim enjoys yard work, walking her dogs Cooper and Bindi, attending concerts with her family, doing home renovations, and painting. She is married to Anthony, who is also an educator, and they have one daughter, Sarah. Whether she's helping students learn life skills or making food for the staff at BHS, Kim Byrd brings a purposeful and humorous attitude to the Blytheville School District.!



KEYS TO SUCCESS

At Blytheville High School, success means more than just grades. Career Counselors Robilyn Key and Jeff Echols believe the real key lies in the choices students make every day and how they prepare for life after graduation.



CHOICES SHAPE THE FUTURE

Success in high school often comes down to the small decisions students make every day. Staying engaged in class, joining study groups, or putting in extra time for sports or clubs can open doors to bigger opportunities. Surrounding yourself with motivated, positive peers also helps push you toward your goals.

“Everything you do is going to affect your future. What you’re doing now is either going to hurt or help.”

Coach Echols’ words are a reminder that the habits and choices made today play a big role in shaping tomorrow’s success.

PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

High school is also about preparing for the next step—college, career, or the military. The counseling office, teachers, and extracurricular opportunities are valuable resources that many students don’t take advantage of enough.

Creating a plan now can ease the transition after graduation and help students walk confidently across the stage. Ms. Key says, ***“The most successful students are those who take charge of their future. They seek guidance early and actively explore their options—whether it’s college, a job, or the military.”*** It is important to start planning now. Take advantage of your resources around you, and make your goals a priority.



2026 #WeAreBHS

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



**CIERRAH
SPANN**

12th grade
1st year journalist



**MCKINLEY
WALKER**

10th grade
1st year journalist



**CANDIE
GROVES**
TEACHER/SPONSOR

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