

CLASS NOTES

WELCOME TO CLASS NOTES!

The time for going back to school has arrived once again, bringing with it a sense of excitement and anticipation for the fresh academic year ahead. Local school districts are busy putting the finishing touches on their preparations for the upcoming school year. Teachers are decorating their classrooms, while sports teams and student activities are already in full swing with practices. Let's take a look at some highlights of what's happening in our local schools as we welcome the 2024-2025 school year!



ASHDOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Ashdown Public Schools is dedicated to being a K-12 STEM District, offering a wide range of programs of study that provide valuable educational opportunities for students in today's rapidly evolving world.
- Ashdown students have a unique opportunity to graduate with an associate's degree through the Associate Degree Pathways program, which is in partnership with Cossatot Community College.



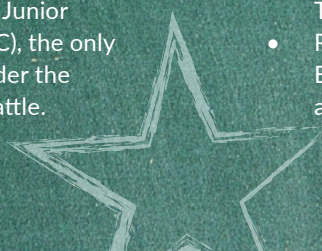
HOOKS ISD

- HISD placed 25th in the UIL Lone Star Cup, which is awarded annually to six high schools, one in each of the six UIL classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A), based on team performance in district and state championships. Hooks High School (HHS) tied for 25th out of over 225 schools in Class 3A. The Lone Star Cup is a prestigious accomplishment, and for the second year in a row, HHS has been in the top 25!
- Hooks Elementary was recognized as an ERP Honor Roll Campus. This is the ninth year that ERP has presented the Honor Roll—the only school recognition program presented in partnership with state and local business leaders, using solely objective student achievement data as the criteria for recognition. The goal of the Honor Roll is to find and highlight successful schools and districts and encourage collaboration among educators on best practices for raising student achievement.



LIBERTY-EYLAU ISD

- Liberty-Eylau ISD's baseball team won the Class 4A State Baseball Championship, led by alum Coach Zach Fowler.
- Liberty-Eylau ISD introduced the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NNDCC), the only Jr. ROTC program in Bowie County, under the instruction of retired Chief Kimberly Battle.



MAUD ISD

- Maud ISD received a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Designation from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
- Maud ISD pays for students' academic and workforce dual credit courses and the books/supplies that go along with the course.



PLEASANT GROVE ISD

- Construction on many facility upgrades across Pleasant Grove ISD is complete. Pleasant Grove High School students will begin the year with a new cafeteria, career counseling center, theatre scene shop, athletic field house, and an expanded band hall to accommodate the rapidly growing music program.
- The high school has added eight new Career and Technical Education classrooms, including a health science suite, an engineering classroom, an audio/video production studio, and a robotics lab complete with competition arenas.



RED LICK ISD

- Red Lick ISD was voted #9 Best School District in Texas (*SchoolDigger*), #5 Districts with the Best Teachers in Texas (*Niche*), and both campuses were named "Best Public School" (*U.S. News and World Report*)
- Red Lick was named #1 Best Place to Raise a Family in Bowie County (*Niche*)



REDWATER ISD

- Redwater ISD received the District of Distinction Award for the fifth consecutive year from the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA).
- Redwater HS, Redwater JH and Redwater Elementary were recognized in ERP's 2023 list as top performing schools in East Texas.





Congratulations Senior and Kindergarten Graduates!



ashdowschoools.org
870-898-3208

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903.585.2219

MAUD
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

- SMALL CLASS SIZES**
- METAL FABRICATION**
- COLLEGE & CAREER PREP**
- WELDING**
- DUAL CREDIT COURSES**
- ESPORTS**
- MARCHING BAND**
- FORENSIC SCIENCE**
- CONCERT BAND**
- DIGITAL MEDIA**
- FFA**
- FCS**

ST. JAMES DAY SCHOOL

- St. James has chickens! Last year, the 7th and 8th graders took on the project of raising chickens. With help from a teacher, designer, and parents, they planned and built a chicken coop and ran it using a donated playhouse. They learned valuable lessons in repurposing and animal care and enjoyed fresh eggs as a reward.
- The Pumpkin Patch continues to grow at St. James. Middle school students built new raised beds from reclaimed wood to expand the patch. They plant pumpkins in the summer for a fall harvest. The area will also include benches and a greenhouse for cross-curricular projects.

TEXARKANA ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

- The Texarkana Arkansas School District will begin the 2024-2025 school year with a new superintendent. Dr. Jackson, a proud product of the Texarkana community and a graduate from Arkansas High School in 1998.
- The Texarkana Arkansas School District has been awarded the highly competitive federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Grant from the Department of Education for \$11,457,355. The MSAP grant will allow the Texarkana Arkansas School District to implement the Legacy Project. The project will create three K-5 learning pathways that infuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) on the Harmony Leadership Academy, Kilpatrick Elementary, and Fairview Elementary campuses.

TEXARKANA ISD

- The new Paul Laurence Dunbar Early Education Center and Parks Elementary are set to open in the fall of 2025, along with significant renovations to Wake Village Elementary.
- A new Infant/Toddler Child Care Program for TISD staff and qualifying community members will open in Fall 2025. It will offer quality care for children from six weeks to three years old.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

- TCS partners with the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana for dual credit opportunities. Students can earn college credits starting in 9th grade, and many graduate with associate degrees.
- TCS offers a variety of sports, including football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball. Competing in the Heartland Christian Athletic Association, the school has recently achieved notable success in junior boys' and girls' basketball.

HIGHER EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA

- Texas A&M University-Texarkana has revamped its scholarship offerings, adding significantly to the number of scholarships awarded to learners of all ages... including first-time students, transfer students, graduate students, and returning students who previously had to pause their academic pursuits. Visit tamut.edu/scholarships for more information.
- There are more ways than ever to cheer for the Eagles. TAMUT Athletics has added coed varsity eSports, competitive cheer, competitive dance, and beach volleyball this year. Coming in the Fall 2025 are men's and women's golf, bowling, and men's and women's lacrosse. For schedules, info, and much more, visit tamuteagles.com.

TEXARKANA COLLEGE

- Texarkana College is excited to announce our partnership with the Texarkana Regional Airport to offer a new Aviation Mechanic Technology program. This is a high-demand occupation with great earning potential. For more information about the new program, visit www.texarkanacollege.edu/programs/aviation-mechanics-technology/.
- Texarkana College is our community's go-to higher education when you want to "Start or Start Over!" With more than 40 programs offered in academic courses that transfer to a university, workforce training courses that quickly lead to high-paying technical and service careers or our legendary nursing programs, Texarkana College is your place to start your new career.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE-TEXARKANA

- Students can now earn their Associate of Arts degree through the UA-Texarkana evening program, designed to accommodate those with daytime commitments.
- UA-Texarkana offers in-state tuition to students from Bowie, Cass, Red River, Marion, Morris, and Titus counties in Texas and provides over 120 privately funded scholarships. Graduates also have the unique opportunity to transfer to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville while continuing to pay UAHT's low tuition rate. **T**