



# Trojan Talk



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- A Note from Mr. Brazle
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*The mission of the Hot Springs Junior Academy is to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students to compete in a global society!*

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# A NOTE FROM MR. BRAZLE

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## *New Year, Same Journey*

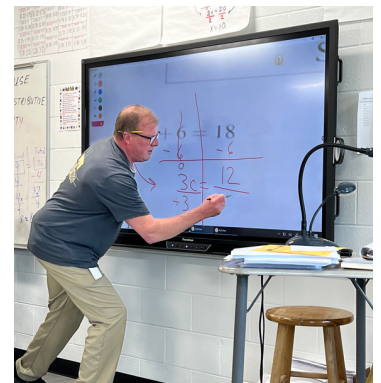
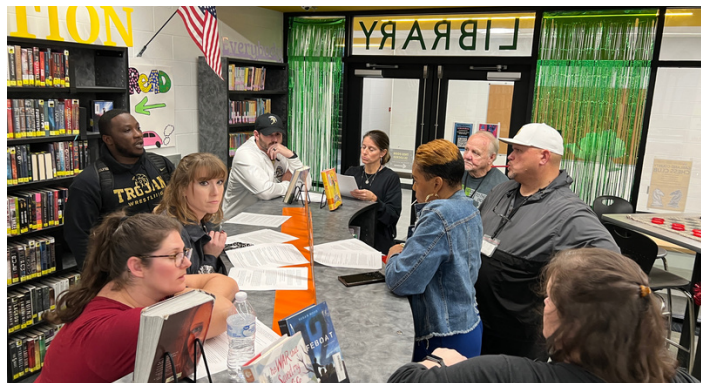
January is always a good time to rejuvenate and refocus, and at the HSJA we are in a great position to move forward through this school year. Last year I felt like we were finding our identity and trying to find out who we were as a school, and being intentional about what we had to do, and this year has been different. We know where we are going and we are being intentional with how we are getting there. We want to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students to compete in a global society, and we have not wavered from that commitment one bit.

Our teams collaborate at high levels as they ensure that the focus of every meeting is about the learning of each student. Our goal at the HSJA is to know each student's strength and areas of growth by skill and being able to do something about it. It is not enough to know that a student is good at a skill or very low in skill if we do not have a plan to make it better, and our collaboration time is meant to specifically address how we can make every student better in every skill that is essential. It is difficult to overstate the importance of collaboration in the PLC process because of how vital it is for our students' success.

However, collaboration alone does not ensure that success unless we are focused on the right work. The right work is putting action into what we have to do to ensure student achievement on all grade-level essential standards. At the HSJA we commit to continually improve by gathering evidence of student learning, develop strategies to address strengths and areas of growth, implement those strategies, analyze the effectiveness of those strategies from how our students perform, and apply what we learned to our next round of instruction. We will not teach and "hope" students get it, we strive to ensure learning by giving great instruction on the front end so that our students have the best chance to achieve mastery as the highest levels.

One thing that we are doing at a high level is celebrating and recognizing the good things going on inside the building. We celebrate our students, teachers, and staff for meeting and exceeding expectations on classwork, essentials, behavior, and standardized testing. The best way to grow a great culture is to celebrate when we do the right things, and the HSJA is making sure that is happening. This newsletter is to highlight some of those great practices we celebrate everyday.

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# Teachers of the Month

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## January Teachers of the Month



Students voted Mrs. Potts (left) and Mr. Poole (right) as Teachers of the Month! Students selected them for their love for their students as well as their content and their commitment to HSJA. Congrats to them both!



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# HSJA CELEBRATIONS

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## Elks Essay Contest Winner!

Our very own \_\_\_ (7th grade) was honored by the Elks Lodge as a winner in their Patriotism Essay Contest! She wrote an essay based on the writing prompt "What is your American Dream?" She won first place in her age group which earned her a gold medal. Her essay will be entered into the state-level competition. Elks Lodge hosted the contest and our HSSD Gifted and Talented Program facilitated it on our campus.



## Trojans Read Book Bus Visits HSJA

The Trojans Read Book Bus was on the move and last week JA students were able to browse the book bus to select books to take home and read. Our 7-9 grade students always enjoy it when the bus visits our campus! They had a great time browsing the collection and selecting something they can take home with them and enjoy!



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# Meet Our Certified Support Staff

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## **Mrs. Sadler**

Mrs. Pam Sadler is our building learning coordinator and is invaluable in assisting teams in ensuring students are learning at high levels.



## **Mrs. Chavez**

Mrs. Brittany Chavez is our library media specialist. She hosts book clubs for each grade, began our schoolwide reading program, and welcomes students into the library for before school and lunchtime fun!

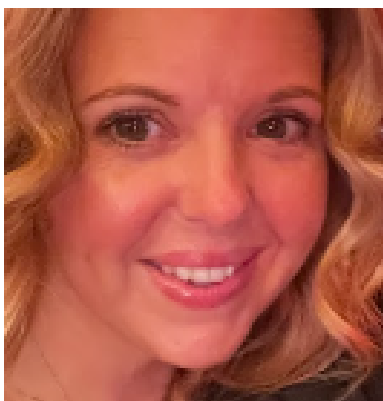
## **Ms. Leggate**

Ms. Shana Leggate is one of our fantastic school counselors who helps students with their schedules, listens when they need someone to talk to, and ensures all of their needs are met!



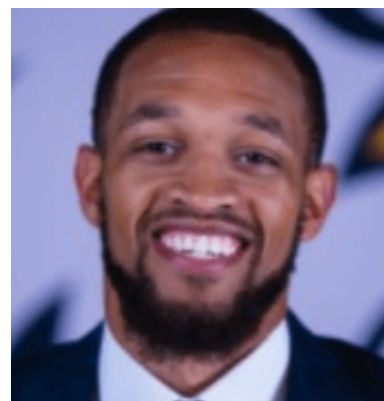
## **Mr. Scroggins**

Mr. Jerry Scroggins is our other wonderful school counselor. He supports students academically, emotionally, and socially. Students know he is always there to help!



## **Mrs. Shepperd**

Mrs. Julie Shepperd is our building testing coordinator and learning loss specialist. She meets students' testing needs!



## **Mr. Malcom**

Mr. Stanley Malcom is our student support specialist. He works directly with the administration to provide student supports focused on behavior!

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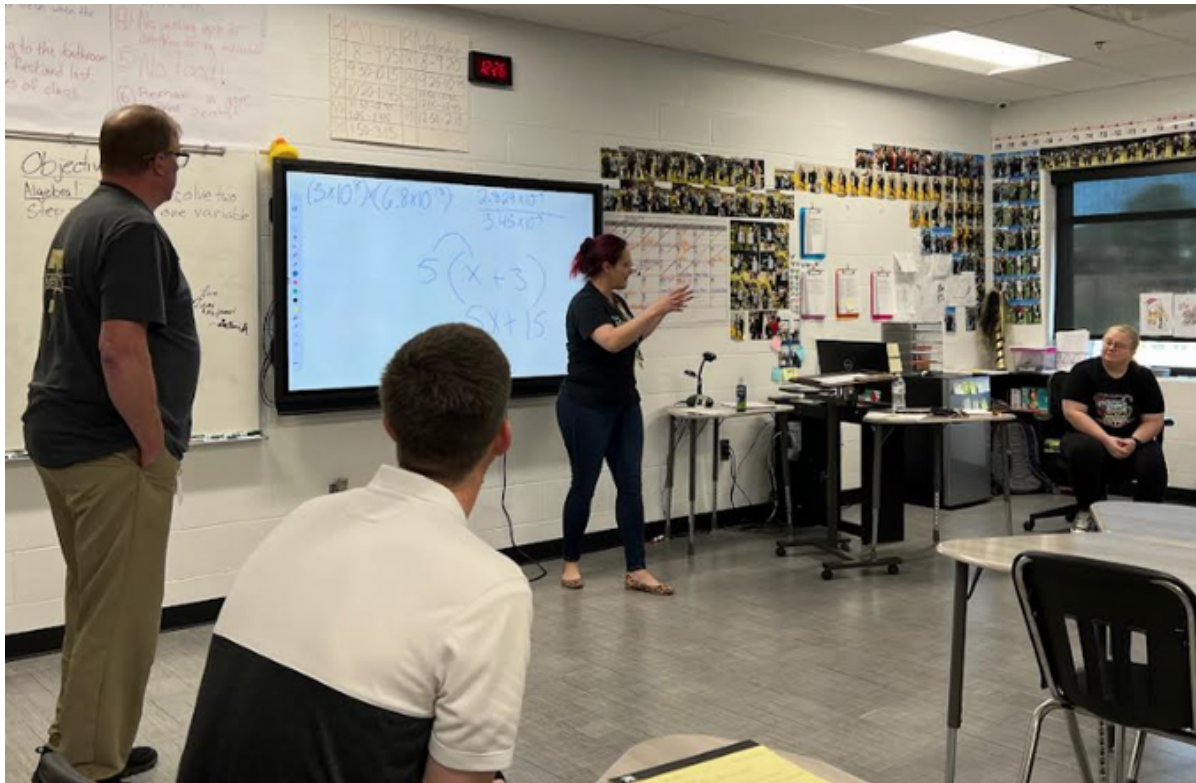
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# PLC Spotlight

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## Analyzing Student Work

It is not enough to look at student scores to determine student needs. Part of the PLC process is taking student work and collaborating with your team members to see what the student work shows you, what errors in reasoning a student may have, or what parts of the content we did not teach the best. At the HSJA we bring student work to our meetings to lead our discussion on how to most effectively reach all students so that they have the best opportunity to achieve mastery on their essential standards.



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# CKH Spotlight

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## The Launch

When we use Capturing Kids' Hearts in the classroom, we end each class with a "launch." Launching has to do with the way we *end* a classroom experience and the way they *send* their charges forth to face the future. This is vastly different from just having students rush out the door when the bell rings.

We want to summarize the learning that has taken place, celebrate the work we have done in the classroom, and impart a challenge to our students to take what they have learned in class and connect it to their own life. We launch everyday in morning announcements and at the end of each class.

**January's launch:** "Do not rise to the occasion, instead fall to your training." We do not want students to perform miraculously on an assessment in the "hopes" that they perform well. We want them to remember all the practice they endured to ensure they show what they learned. In your life you do not have to perform miracles to be a success, but you do have to work hard and use the knowledge you have gained to achieve the goals you have set for yourself. Train hard, and when things get tough you simply fall back to your training.

