



The Hog Herald

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Newsletter for the Texarkana Arkansas School District Community

Annual Report Issue

Trice Elementary Teacher Receives Milken Award

Amy Braswell to receive a check for \$25,000 for her work as an educator



Governor Mike Huckabee makes the Milken Award presentation to Amy Braswell.

Amy Braswell, a teacher at Trice Elementary School, was surprised on October 15, 2002 with the news that she had been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 2002 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Governor Mike Huckabee and First Lady Janet Huckabee greeted Ms. Braswell with the good news during a special presentation at her school. Ray Simon, Director of the Arkansas Department of Education, also attended the ceremony.

Dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by the *Teacher Magazine*, the Milken National Educator Awards were created in 1985 to reward, retain, and attract the highest caliber professionals to public schools. Ms. Braswell joined 100 unsuspecting educators from across the country who were also surprised by the news of their \$25,000 Awards-which can be used any way they choose.

"Amy Braswell has given her best to the Texarkana School District by striving to enrich the lives of her students by continuously improving her skills as a teacher," said a colleague. An educator for 16 years, Ms. Braswell received her bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. In late 2001, Ms. Braswell received the National Board Certification. She was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2000, and was named Texarkana Arkansas School District's Teacher of the Year in 2002.

"Arkansas is tremendously fortunate to have people such as Amy Braswell working with our children," said Governor Huckabee.

Recipients are presented with their \$25,000 Award checks at the annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference, an all-expenses-paid professional development conference held in Los Angeles. They also join the Milken Educator Network, a coalition of nearly 2,000 top educators who have access to a variety of expert resources to help cultivate and expand innovative programs in the classrooms, schools and districts.

For more pictures please log-on to ww.tasd7.net



Ray Simon, Director of the Ark. Dept. of Education, Amy Braswell, and Dr. Kathy Lease, TASD superintendent enjoy the excitement.

Commended Student AHS Senior, Cortney Larry

AHS Senior Cortney Larry joined 1,500 semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program's 39th annual academic competition for Black American high school students. These scholastically promising young men and women now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for over 775 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth some \$2.7 million, that will be offered next spring.

More than 115,000 high school juniors from all parts of the U.S. entered the 2003 Achievement Program by requesting consideration when they took the 2001 PSAT/NMSQT. Semifinalists were designated within geographic regions and are the highest-scoring program entrants in the states that make up each region.

The Achievement Program, conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), is a privately financed activity initiated in 1964 to honor outstanding black youth and to increase their educational opportunities. "Our goal is to provide undergraduate scholarships to a substantial number of the most able participants in each annual competition," commented an NMSC spokesperson. Since the program was founded, more than 23,500 Achievement Scholarship awards worth nearly \$75 million have been awarded to academically talented Black American students.

Preparing Lifelong Learners for a Changing World

Hog Happenings

Distinguished Alumni Honored at Homecoming

Texarkana Arkansas School District honored Dr. Carl "Cheesie" Nelson (posthumously), Mr. David Pope, and Mr. Lewis Thompson during a reception on October 25, 2002.

Dr. Carl Nelson

Dr. Carl Nelson was born and raised in Texarkana, Arkansas. Graduating from Arkansas High School in 1956, he worked on his undergraduate degree at Texarkana Junior College before attending the University of Arkansas to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in geology in 1961. He continued his education endeavors at the University of Arkansas by attaining a M.Ed. in education administration in 1965 and received his Ed.D. in education administration in 1968.

Dr. Nelson decided to come back home in 1975 to take the position of president at Texarkana College. He was known throughout Texarkana as a humorist, artist, public speaker, duck hunter, and tennis champion, and in his earlier years he was noted as one of the first Elvis impersonators. He is most remembered as being a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and very dear friend.

Dr. Nelson passed away on July 9, 2001. Dr. Nelson was married to Tamar Hall Nelson. The Nelsons have two sons, Carl M. Nelson III and wife, Melody, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Clay Matthew Nelson and his wife, Julia, of Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Nelson enjoyed being a grandfather to Drake, Merrell, Elissa, Rosie, and Conner.



Dr. Carl Nelson

David Pope

David Pope spent his whole life in the Texarkana, Arkansas, school system. After graduating from Arkansas High School in 1962, he attended Henderson State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in 1967. He received a Master of Education degree from East Texas State University at Commerce.

Mr. Pope began teaching 5th grade at Fairview Elementary School in 1966. He later served as principal at Fairview, Washington Intermediate School, and College Hill Junior High. He then moved to Arkansas High School where he was assistant principal for 18 years.

David is married to Cheryl, a nurse at Christus St. Michael Hospital, has two daughters, Jennifer Bland of Shreveport and Laura Stull of Memphis, and has two stepdaughters,



Mr. David Pope

Marti Welch of Little Rock and Tanya Johnson, who is a senior at AHS this year.

Mr. Pope is best known for his relationship with and concern for the students he has worked with through the years. This attitude earned him a nickname among the students, "Big Daddy Pope."

Lewis Thompson, Jr.

Lewis Thompson, Jr., was born in Homer, Arkansas, and moved to the Texarkana, Arkansas, area during his early childhood. Thompson graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1956. Thompson earned his Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Mississippi Valley State University. He received his Master of Education in education administration from Texas A & M University-Texarkana in 1976.

Thompson returned home and served as a physical



Mr. Lewis Thompson

education teacher, science teacher, head football coach, assistant principal, and principal for TASD.

Thompson also coached the semi-pro football team called the Texarkana Phantoms of the Southern Football League.

Governor Mike Huckabee appointed Thompson to the Arkansas State Board of Education, and he serves on the National Educational Board.

Thompson is married to his high school sweetheart, Margaret Denmon Thompson. The Thompson's have four children, Calvin Thompson of Texarkana, Arkansas, Lewis II (Mike) Thompson of Atlanta, Georgia, James Thompson of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Sonya Thompson of New York City, New York. The Thompsons have three granddaughters and three grandsons.

Annual Report

Letter from our Superintendent

Five-Year Plan in the works!

What a great time to be involved in education in the Texarkana Arkansas School District! It is a privilege to work with the wonderful students and outstanding teachers, support staff, and administrators that we have in our district. During the 2002-2003 school year, we will again focus on continuous learning, continuous improvement, data-driven decisions, and customer service in order to foster the development of a quality school district.

With the help of the community, parents, staff and students, we look forward to the development of our new five-year plan. We want to hear everyone's voice and share everyone's dream for creating world-class schools for our community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kathy Lease

History and Facts

The Texarkana Arkansas School District had its beginning in 1884 in "the brick school," which was officially named Hays School in 1896. Later, it became known as Central School. A high school was opened in 1896 and graduated the first class in 1898. Records do not indicate the year in which Orr School, a school for the district's African American children, was opened, but school board minutes record a fire destroyed the building in February 1898.

From this early start, Texarkana Arkansas School District has grown to its present size of 4,592 students in grades K-12 and ranks 17th in size out of 310 school districts in the state of Arkansas.

The Arkansas Department of Education and the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges accredit all schools in the district.

The current racial make-up of the district is 50.3% white, 47.7% African American, and 2% other.

Annual Report: Five Year Plan Overview and a Look Toward the Future

1997-1998

Each year, the school district publishes an annual report to the public on its goals and accreditation status. Our current five-year plan was approved on December 17, 1996, for implementation in the 1997-98 school year. The plan had four goals relating to the district's work to provide opportunities for students to become lifelong learners, to meet the diverse needs of the community, to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment, and to engage all shareholders in the responsibility of ensuring student achievement.

1999

During the summer of 1999, the Texarkana Board of Education updated its five-year plan for Continuous Improvement. It kept two of the four goals: Texarkana Arkansas School District will provide opportunities for students to become lifelong learners; and Texarkana Arkansas School District will provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for all.

2002-2003

During the 2002-2003 school year, the district will develop its new five-year plan. School board members are planning to attend strategic planning training through a program sponsored by the Arkansas School Boards Association called Key Work. The Key Work for School Boards organization offers school boards the necessary strategies to establish clear creditable student performance based standards and provides guidance to communicate these standards to students, staff, and the community

Several local workgroups are already working on each campus. These workgroups are Grading, Vertical Teaming, High Schools That Work, Keeping Kids Connected, Discipline Action Research Team, and the Discipline Review Board. New workgroups for this year include Making Middle Grades Work, Assessment and Data, Reading, Technology, Early Childhood, and the Attendance Review Board.

Annual Report: District Achievements for 2001-2002

Texarkana Arkansas School District No. 7

District Achievements for 2001-2002

- Four elementary schools received monetary rewards from the Arkansas Department of Education through the Measuring Performance Honors Program.
- Teachers from Trice Elementary were asked to present their strategies for improving student achievement to the State Board of Education in Little Rock.
- Board members visited every school this year, toured the facilities, and ate lunch.
- Several schools in the district have very successful mentoring programs involving community volunteers.
- Maintenance worked diligently to improve services, equipment, and accountability.
- Through a partnership with the county and the juvenile court system, the district opened an additional alternative placement for expelled students through the new Juvenile Detention Day School Program.
- With the addition of a coordinator for school and community relations, the district developed new publications, improved relationships with the media, introduced a new logo, planned new strategies for engaging the patrons of our district, and designed new internal publications.
- TASD received growth money for an increase in enrollment for the first time in four years.
- The Discipline Action Research Team, along with building administrators, developed a new K-12 Student/Parent Handbook.
- The Keeping Kids Connected Workgroup formulated plans to decrease dropouts, improve attendance, and partner with community resources to help our students stay in school and be successful.
- The High Schools That Work Team is developing plans to help our district become a member of High Schools That Work, an organization sponsored by the Southern Regional Education Board. It is a nationally recognized, effective strategy for improving high schools.
- The Discipline Review Board began in 2001-2002 to provide an opportunity for parents, students, and school officials to review due process and to hear cases recommended for expulsion before those cases are referred to the board for action. The DRB decides if an alternate placement is appropriate, or if the case should go to the board for action.
- Administrators were reorganized to more effectively serve the needs of students and schools. One administrator is assigned to help all schools with truancy, attendance, and referrals to court. The middle school is operating with a new co-principals model.
- The Evaluation Workgroup developed new evaluation instruments for teachers, building level administrators, and district administrators. Plans are underway for the revision of non-certified staff evaluations.



TASD Board Members, Johnny Toombs, Darryl Pickett, and I. Don Nelson visit the Graphic and Printing Technology class at the Texarkana Area Vocational Center.



Dr. Kathy Lease, superintendent; Janet Cole-Carter, Trice 4th grade teacher; and former teacher, Sonya Freeze, await their turn to present their Benchmark power point presentation to the Arkansas State Board of Education.



Dan Hammock, W. T. Daniels Director, Judge Jim Hudson, Kenya Buffington, Weed and Seed Director, Diane Lollis, DHS, and Aqunett Walker, DSH, work together on the Keeping Kids Connected workgroup.

Annual Report: District Achievements for 2001-2002

Texarkana Arkansas School District No. 7

District Achievements for 2001-2002

- Administrators participated in a pilot project for portfolio evaluations. The presentation of their portfolios was part of their annual evaluation.
- Fairview Elementary School received approval from the board to transition to an arts-based curriculum. It is the first school in southwest Arkansas to implement this curriculum.



Fairview Elementary students play violins as part of their arts-based curriculum.

- The district's Grading Workgroup began study of grading policies and assessment practices. Their work is continuing into the 2002-2003 school year.
- The district funded all schools' participation in ArtSmart through the Coca-Cola funds.
- Union Elementary and College Hill Elementary each received a \$150,000 Comprehensive School Reform Development Grant to be implemented over the next three years.
- In order to improve student achievement at the high school, the curriculum was revised to provide more rigor. The number of

Advanced Placement classes offered at the high school doubled for the 2002-2003 school year.

- North Heights and Arkansas High received pre-AP and AP grants for several teachers.
- Partnerships and communications with the city, the Chamber of Commerce, and the community are continuing.
- A very successful Summer Leadership Seminar was held with Campus Leadership Teams from each school.
- The district has worked at all campuses to improve our "curb appeal."
- Three of our schools, North Heights, Trice, and Arkansas High involved students in painting murals in their buildings.
- The maintenance department, the athletic department, and the Razorback Booster Club continue to work on stadium and Buhrman Field improvements. Lights were installed at Buhrman Field for soccer teams and band practice.
- We had a very successful year with our athletic teams, band, and choir. We received numerous statewide honors in these programs.
- Our athletic program expanded in 2001-2002 to add girls' soccer.



Arkansas High Art students work to complete the fountain wall located in the Art Wing of AHS.



North Heights High School demolition.

- Because it was not economically feasible to refurbish the old North Heights High School building, the decision was made to raze the building and sell the property. Adult Education was moved to 4-A.
- Vertical teaming with K-12 teachers has been implemented.
- All schools have been designated as "school wide" for Title I for 2002-2003.
- Teachers and administrators participated in study groups this year with Tools for Teaching and Turning Points (5-8).
- The community joined with the district in participating in Speak Up, Arkansas, sponsored by the Arkansas School Boards Association.

TASD in the Community

Texarkana Komen Race for the Cure: 82 Volunteers and 96 Walker/Racers

United Way: \$9,000 raised for United Way

Make-A Difference Day: Each campus donated canned goods to the Texarkana Volunteer Center to help the needy.

Preparing Lifelong Learners for a Changing World

Annual Report: District Data & Assessment Data

Texarkana Arkansas School District No. 7

District Data

Year	Enrollment	Free/Reduced Count	Free/Reduced Percent
97-98	5102	2913	57%
98-99	5925	2730	46%
99-00	4737	2774	59%
00-01	4596	2573	56%
01-02	4635	2598	56%
02-03	4592	2709	59%

District Assessment Data

The state assessment program requires that all students in grades 5, 7, and 10 take the Stanford Achievement Test-9th Edition. All students in grades 4, 6, and 8 take the Arkansas Benchmark Exams. Students who finish Algebra I, geometry, and junior English must take End of Course exams. The charts below reflect all aggregate test data available since the 1997-98 school year.

SAT-9 National Percentile Rankings for Complete Battery

Grade	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
5	36	35	38	44	42
7	37	31	47	43	38
10	39	36	37	39	43

Benchmark Scores

Benchmark Scores reflect the percent of students who scored proficient or advanced on the Benchmark Exams.

Grade 4	1999	2000	2001	2002
Mathematics	21%	38%	47%	46%
Literacy	31%	48%	52%	74%
Grade 6	1999	2000	2001	2002
Mathematics	NA	NA	9%	12%
Literacy	NA	NA	10%	19%
Grade 8	1999	2000	2001	2002
Mathematics	NA	9%	18%	22%
Literacy	NA	14%	34%	17%

End of Course Exams

The 2001-2002 administration of the End of Course Exams was the first full administration of the tests. The numbers reflect the percent of students who scored either proficient or advanced.

Literacy (11th Gr. Only)	2001	2002
Proficient/Advanced	14%	30%
Algebra I	2001	2002
Proficient/Advanced	26%	41%
Geometry	2001	2002
Proficient/Advanced	24%	31%

Accreditation

All schools in the Texarkana School District meet all standards for accreditation of the Arkansas Department of Education and the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges.

Preparing Lifelong Learners for a Changing World

Hog Headlines

Congratulations to the Lady Backs Volleyball 5-A South Conference Champions

The AHS Lady Backs defeated Lake Hamilton with a 15-11, 15-8 to secure the 5-A South Conference volleyball championship on Tuesday, October 22.



The Lady Backs return to the court after a time-out.

After the regular season championship, the Lady Backs played in a conference tournament in El Dorado before taking the trek to Cabot, Ark., for the state playoffs. During the opening round of state action, the Lady Backs rallied to defeat Mountain Home but lost to Fort Smith Northside, 15-10, 15-7, 15-5 during the quarterfinals.

While the state crown passed to someone else this year, the Lady Backs claimed the school's first ever twenty game win season at 23-10.

2002 -2003 Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders



Left to Rt. Ben McGinnis, Samantha Smallwood, Sarah E. Douglas and Anne Morel hold up their Superintendent Honor Certificates in recognition for being selected to participate in the Leadership Texarkana Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders program. Sherrard Brooks is also a member.



JA Volunteer, Veleta Ducroz of Red River Federal Credit Union, shows students how to play the "Game of Success" in Dinnah Funderberg's North Heights Junior High 8th grade class.

Junior Achievement : *"The Economic Benefits of Staying in School"*

Junior Achievement is a nonprofit economic education organization inspiring young people to value free enterprise through its partnerships with the business and education communities.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for supporting the classroom visitations each week and sustaining the JA program called "The Economic Benefits of Staying in School" at North Heights Junior High School.

Ben Mayo	Mayo Manufacturing Corp.
Bob Bruggeman	Texarkana Chamber of Commerce
Don Forst	International Paper Company
Gary Mayo	Mayo Manufacturing Corp.
Mary Wormington	United Way of Greater Texarkana
Scott Robertson	Curt Green & Co.
Susan Hickey	Humco Holding Group, Inc.
Valerie Farwell	Patton Haltom Law Firm
Veleta Ducroz	Red River Federal Credit Union

If you are interested in in being a JA volunteer at NHJH, please call the JA office at 870-773-0248.

District Wide Choral Concert at the Perot!!!

Perot Theatre @ 221 Main Street
Tuesday, December 10 @ 7 p.m.

Choirs from all campuses will perform secular and sacred Christmas music and familiar carols.

Admission is Free but tickets must be reserved in advance.
For information regarding reservations, please call 870-774-7641 ext. 307

December Activities

Dec. 12 is Fairview Elementary's Christmas in the Courtyard!
Enjoy Christmas lights in the courtyard, music and hot chocolate.
Silent wreath auction. 5:30-8pm
Come join the fun!

Dec. 19 is Union Elementary's Christmas Classroom Parties.

Razorback Hoops

Razorbacks and Lady Backs Varsity and JV



Texarkana Arkansas Razorback Basketball Schedule

AHS 9th and NHJH 8th Grade

Date	Opponent	Place	Time	Boys V/JV	Girls V/JV
11/19	Pleasant Grove Benefit	Home	5:30	JV/V	
	Texas High	Away	5:00		V
11/23	Texas High	Home	5:00	JV/V	
11/26	Magnolia	Away	6:00		JV/V
11/29-30	THS Thanksgiving Tourn.	Away	TBA	V	
12/5-7	Lindale, TX Tournament	Away	TBA	V	
	Gunslinger/NewBoston	Away	TBA		V
12/10	Liberty-Eylau	Home	5:00		JV/V
12/12-14	Marshall, TX Tournament	Away	TBA	V	
12/13	TBA	TBA	TBA		
12/20	Texas High	Home	5:00		9TH, JV/V
12/26-28	Winter Holiday/Nashville	Away	TBA		V
12/27-30	Fouke, AR Classic	Away	TBA	V	
12/30	Holiday Classic Fouke	Away	TBA		V
1/3	Marshall, TX	Away	5:30	JV/V	
1/10	Pine Bluff*	Home	5:00	V	V
1/14	Sheridan*	Away	5:00	JV/V	V
1/17	Benton*	Away	5:00	JV/V	V
1/21	El Dorado*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
1/24	Lake Hamilton*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
1/28	Camden Fairview*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
1/31	Watson Chapel*	Away	5:00	V	V
2/4	Sheridan*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
2/7	Pine Bluff*	Away	5:00	V	V
2/11	El Dorado*	Away	5:00	JV/V	V
2/14	Benton*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
2/18	Camden Fairview*	Home	5:00	JV/V	V
2/21	Lake Hamilton*	Away	5:00	JV/V	V
2/25	OPEN				
2/28	Watson Chapel*	Home	5:00	V	V
3/3-8	5-A State Tournament	TBA	TBA	V	V
3/14-15	5-A State Tournament	TBA	TBA	V	V

Date	Opponent	Place	Time	b=boys g=girls
11/18	Liberty Eylau	AHS	5:00	8g, 9g
11/21	El Dorado Barton	Away	4:30	8g, 8b (a&b)
11/23	Texas High	AHS	5:00	9b
11/25	El Dorado Barton	AHS	5:00	8g, 8b (a&b)
12/2-7	El Dorado Tourn.	Away	TBA	9g
12/5-7	THS Tourn.	Away	TBA	8g
12/5-7	City Tournament	AHS	TBA	9b
12/9	Magnolia	Away	4:45	8b,9b
12/9	Magnolia	AHS	5:00	8g,9g
12/12	El Dorado	AHS	5:30	9g,9b
12/12-14	City Tournament	THS	TBA	8b
12/16	Fairview	Away	5:00	8g,9g,9b
12/20	Texas High	AHS	5:00	9g
1/13	Fairview	AHS	5:00	8b,9g,9b
1/16	Hope	Away	5:00	8g,9g,9b
1/27	El Dorado	Away	4:30	8g,9g,9b
2/3	Liberty Eylau	Away	4:00	8g,9g
2/3	El Dorado	AHS	5:00	8b (a&b)
2/6	Magnolia	Away	4:45	8g,9g
2/6	Magnolia	AHS	5:00	8b,9b
2/10	Hope	AHS	5:00	8b,9g,9b
2/13-21	District Tourney	TBA	TBA	9g,9b

*Conference Games



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