

The Hawk

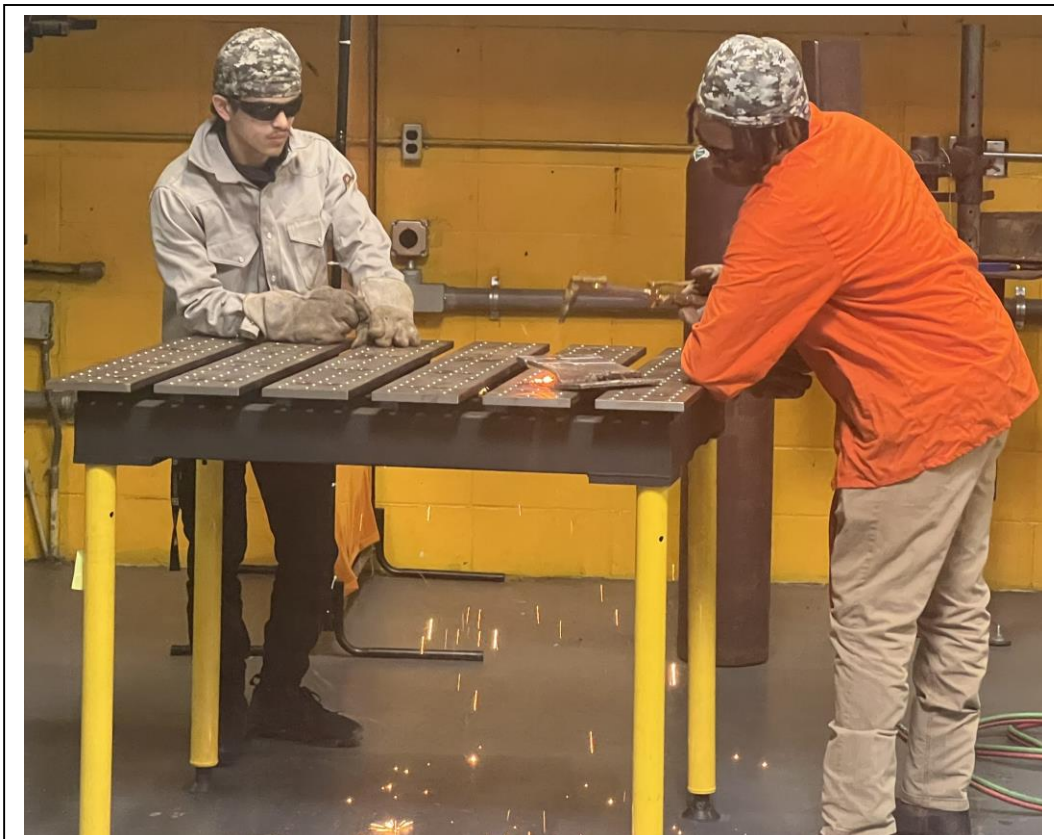


Holly Springs, Mississippi

Spring 2024

District Newsletter

‘Endless opportunities’



Students Jim Garcia and Najeh Glover work on a welding project at the Career and Technical Center.



Dr. Irene Turnage and Justin Hall talk about industrial growth in Marshall County.

Schools, IDA strive to build strong workforce

This edition of The Hawk highlights some of the great workforce partnerships and ways the district is preparing students to be career ready.

The importance of connecting students with workforce opportunities in Marshall County is stronger than ever as an already strong industrial base continues to grow.

That’s why the Holly Springs School District and the Marshall County Industrial Development Authority share a partnership focused on matching young people with good jobs right here at home.

“It’s about helping to build a strong workforce,” said Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education. “We have had a great relationship with the IDA for years, and it is our goal to continue to grow that relationship and provide opportunities for our students.”

Justin Hall, executive director of the IDA, said the future is bright for young people to be able to find quality, good-paying jobs in Marshall County.

“There is no need to look for work out of county,” he said. “We have great opportunities at home – from homegrown businesses to Fortune 500 companies. The job opportunities are

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here, and these are good jobs that pay well with excellent benefits.”

The latest major economic development announcement came in January. A battery cell production facility is coming to the ever-expanding Chickasaw Trail Industrial park in the northwest corner of Marshall County, and it will create 2,000 new jobs.

The newly-developed Springs Industrial Park in Holly Springs, with interstate and rail access, is also high on the industrial prospect radar. Additions there would add to an already strong industrial base in the city.

Hall said the partnership between industries and the Holly Springs Career and Technical Center is extremely valuable. Industries are always looking to get involved with the schools, he said.

“Give them a basic foundation, and they can find a job,” he said. “The school district has the resources. And the CTE program is a pipeline for the students to move on to the workforce.”

Industries are getting more and more high-tech.

“We have to continue to raise awareness of what a modern-age manufacturing facility looks like,” he said.

Turnage also said the mindset of the students is crucial to their success in the workplace.

“They have to be ready, with a desire and dedication to go to work and be the best they can be at their chosen profession,” she said. “It is important to get into a profession you enjoy and have a successful life.”

Turnage said, in the Holly Springs School District, there is a joint effort between CTE and the traditional academic courses to teach essential skills and prepare students for the next step in their lives.

“All students will have a career whether they go straight to the workforce or college first, but the path they take will be unique to them,” she said. “The district wants to help make sure students are ready for whatever path they choose.”

“The opportunities are endless in our county. We want to continue to work closely with IDA balancing both the academic and career side for our students, ensuring a great workforce for the future of Marshall County.”

Advanced welding



The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) is a leading provider of construction education for industry and educational programs. This national certification helps in training career development standards for construction and maintenance craft professionals. Holly Spring Career and Technical Center houses a welding program which can lead to an NCCER certification. Advanced welding students are working hard to repeat last year’s success of 100 percent of welding students obtaining national certifications.

Shadowing (Teacher Prep)



Educator Prep students from the Holly Springs Career and Technical Center partner with the Holly Springs Primary and Intermediate Schools, shadowing teachers with reading and tutoring.

Let's work together to ensure our students are career ready

There is often a debate as to whether we should prepare our students to go to college or straight into the workforce. In today's world, the answer is, "We should prepare our students for both." Some students will go to college and work while they complete their degree. Some students will go straight into the workforce or the military and take college or trade school courses as they gain work experience. All students will have careers. The path they choose will be up to them.

It is the job of parents, students, community and the school district, working together, to make sure our students are ready for whatever career path they choose. Ready means students can read and think on higher levels, solve problems, and have essential job skills, like knowing how to work with others to get the job done. When we all work together, we will guarantee our students have successful careers that will allow them to take care of their families, contribute to society, help grow our community, and most importantly, possess the qualities that will ensure the workforce for the future is stronger than ever.

This edition of The Hawk is dedicated to highlighting Holly Springs School District's partnerships and activities completed to help prepare our students for careers and the workforce, regardless of the path.



*Dr. Irene Turnage
Superintendent of
Education*



First-ever B accountability rating

City honors school district for high-performing status

The City of Holly Springs, in the Nov. 7, 2023, meeting of the mayor and board of aldermen, recognized the Holly Springs School District for achieving the district's first-ever B accountability rating (high-performing) from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Mayor Sharon Gipson invited school leaders so the city as a whole could celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the school district. Standing, from left, are Lemon Phelps, school board president; Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education; Eileen Dowsing, assistant superintendent; Dr. Gemma Beckley, school board secretary; Kim Mayfield, school board member; Cravin Turnage, principal of the high school; Tamara Onwuemenyi, assistant principal of the high school; Vikki Marion, principal of the intermediate school; Dr. Sherna Jones, coordinator of the new Early Learning Collaborative with partner ICS Head Start; and Casshaunda Davis, principal of the primary school.

Three individual schools also received B ratings for the 2022-2023 year, including Holly Springs High School, Holly Springs Intermediate School and Holly Springs Primary School.



ACT 20 and Above Club

The Holly Springs High School ACT 20 and Above Club recognizes students with outstanding ACT scores. Upon receiving an ACT composite or sub-score of 20 or higher, students are considered members of the club. The ACT is a college entrance exam that many colleges and universities in the United States use as part of the college admissions process. Members of the ACT 20 and Above Club are, front row, from left to right, Leela Hubbard, Oriah Hampton, Alicia Moore, Mickala Elliott, Demetria Parks, and Anesha Vasser; back row, from left to right, Sonya Hosmer, Ceyenne Burton, Natalya Jones, Jason Jeffries, Jim Garcia Espino, Arian Shelton, and Demarquez Strickland.



WorkKeys success

ACT WorkKeys is a series of assessments that measures skills essential for success in the 21st century workplace. The ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT WorkKeys NCRC) is a credential issued based on competencies on three assessments: Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents. Pictured above are Holly Springs High School students who have met their ACT WorkKeys goal. From left are Breanna Hampton, Jim Garcia, Elijah Gatewood, Synayah Glover, Najeh Glover, Oriah Hampton, principal Cravin Turnage, Ilse Espino Jimenez, Lederion Glover, Alicia Moore, Arian Shelton, Angel Jenkins, Devin Hunter, Demetria Parks. Students taking Career and Technical Courses must score on the silver level which consists of making an overall score of 4. Students who do not take career pathway courses must score on the gold level which consists of making an overall score of 5.



Platinum WorkKeys

ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) measures and certifies the essential workforce readiness skills needed for an individual to be successful in the workforce. Individuals scoring platinum on the ACT WorkKeys assessment, which is an overall score of 6 or 7, means an individual has the necessary skills for 99 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys Job Pro database. The Career and Technical Center is proud to announce four students at Holly Springs High School scored platinum on the ACT WorkKeys assessment. Pictured are Arian Shelton, Alicia Moore, Jim Garcia and Leela Hubbard.



100 percent

Last school year, 100 percent of students in the ESB-II Entrepreneur and Small Business Exam program obtained National Certifications for Business. Pictured is Jansen Pegues, business teacher.

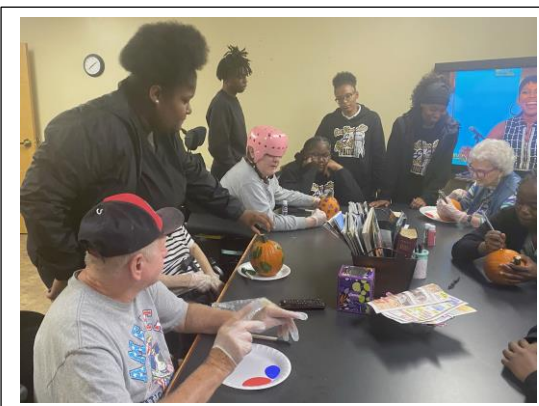


Career Tech director visits Rotary

Last year, 100 percent of students in NCCER Core Welding at the Holly Springs Career and Technical center obtained National Certifications for Welding. Susie Brown, director of CTC, stepped in to assist students after the welding teacher moved. Pictured is Brown speaking to the Holly Springs Rotary Club in January about the district's high-performing rating from the Mississippi Department of Education and CTC's role in contributing to that academic success. Brown also thanked Rotarians for their support of the schools and urged them to visit the CTC and also provide shadowing opportunities for students.

National Certifications Celebrations:

Students who obtain National Certifications are considered to have achieved an accelerated status. Industry certifications are independent, nationally-recognized credentials. Earning a specialized certification can reward a student with higher salary potential, stronger employment demand, and better job stability.



Holly Springs Career and Technical Center Community Service

(Left photo) Health Care and Clinical Services students from the Holly Springs School District Career and Technical Center enjoy activities with residents at Christopher's Personal Care Home. (Right photo) Business, Marketing and Finance students from the Career and Technical Center partner with the Southern Mission to support the Garden Café, which feeds families in need.



Arian Shelton and CTC counselor LaTonya Burgin



Lederion Glover and student service coordinator Laverne Sanders



Oriah Hampton and high school counselor Bettye Robinzine

Individual Success Plan helps students identify their career interests

An Individual Success Plan (ISP) is a career exploration plan that students complete with the help of a teacher or school counselor. The ISP helps students identify their career interests and plan a program of study that aligns with their career goals and leads to graduation. The ISP is reviewed and approved annually by the student, parent and educator. Over 90 percent of the students at Holly Springs High School have completed their ISP and are in the process of going over them with counselors, interventionists, or student services staff. The career plan will assist students in the following areas – 1) Provide mentoring and guidance to assist students in career pathway planning; 2) Help identify correct graduation pathway options; 3) Support changes to meet student needs and ambitions; and 4) Transition into a profession or postsecondary educational major.

Board training

Some Holly Springs School District board members and the superintendent of education participated in the Mississippi School Boards Association's 2024 Conference on February 12-14. Board member Kim Mayfield and superintendent Dr. Irene Turnage (pictured at right) attended in person at Flowood and board members Ejeera Dukes and Dr. Gemma Beckley participated virtually. The conference, which featured a very informative agenda, provided valuable information to all involved, including school board members, superintendents, principals and MSBA personnel. Sessions included "Building Effective Teacher Recruitment and Retention Practices" and "Leading Together: New Perspectives on Board/Superintendent Relations." Each conference and training activity attended by Holly Springs School District representatives equips the leaders with knowledge needed to ensure they are doing what is best for the students and the school district as a whole. The leaders stand behind the mission of the Holly Springs School District, educating students who can Excel in the global community.





Newly-initiated members of the Holly Springs High School National Honor Society

Sixteen students join Honor Society

Holly Springs High School inducted 16 new members into the National Honor Society on Wednesday morning, March 6, in the library.

Current members of the Holly High chapter of the National Honor Society conducted the ceremony, which began with a welcome from president Alicia Moore and an introduction to the “Lighting of Candles” by treasurer Demetria Parks. Explaining the four principles of the National Honor Society were member Arian Shelton, scholarship; vice president Janya Bohanna, leadership; member Lederion Glover, service; and secretary Nikiya Burgess, character.

The group then recited the National Honor Society Pledge – “I pledge to uphold the high purposes of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected. I will be true to the principles for which it stands, and I will maintain and encourage the high standards of scholarship, leadership, service and character.”

Advisor Ciente Barber presented the new inductees, who were honored with medals and certificates. They are (above, first row, from left) Kennedi Norfleet, Khylah Brown, Keturah Payton, Mickala Elliott, Zyikeria Cowan, Aziah Wright and Saimira McAuley, (second row) Geoyl Ambrose, Jamiyah Hurt, Asia Jackson, Shaniyah Storey, Malicia Selman, Jim Garcia, Ilse Espino Jimenez, Natalya Jones and (not pictured) Jason Jeffries.

Principal Cravin Turnage (pictured above, in back) presented closing remarks. He complimented the students on their outstanding achievement and thanked the parents for their guidance and support in the lives of their children.

“You all stand above your peers,” he told the Honor Society inductees. “We expect great things from each of you. You can move mountains.”

He also urged the honor students to serve others.

“The more you give to others, the more that comes back to you,” Turnage said.



Lederion Glover lights a candle for service.



Advisor Ciente Barber, treasurer Demetria Parks and president Alicia Moore hand out medals to the inductees.

Community supports Holly Springs School District

Man Up launches teacher recruitment

The Holly Springs School District is working with the Man Up Teacher Fellowship program to recruit men of color to teach in preK-12 classrooms.

The district coordinated two recent meetings, one virtual and another in-person, to provide an in-depth overview of the Man Up program's offerings and partnership opportunities.

The Man Up Teacher Fellowship program partners with school districts, colleges and universities to train and certify male teachers of color. It is a tuition-free opportunity for men of color to become certified and earn a Masters of Arts in Teaching while receiving support from nationally-recognized educators.

Dr. Patrick Washington, former superintendent of the Benton County School District, is the founder and CEO of Man Up Teacher Fellowship.

"We are looking for men who want a career in education and who want to make a difference," he said during the February 6 meeting at Holly Springs High School. "Recruiting is about relationships, and we are going to make this happen. Spread the word. Let's transform this community."

He said other meetings will be scheduled in Holly Springs as interest continues to build.

Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of the Holly Springs School District, thanked Washington and other Man Up Teacher Fellowship staff members for their dedication to the extremely important program. She also urged the Holly Springs community to help in the efforts to recruit men of color to teach in the district's classrooms.

She said she likes to tell others that teaching is "heart work."

"It's definitely worth it," Turnage said. "You can indeed make a difference in the lives of our young people."

For more information on Man Up Teacher Fellowship, a non-profit organization, go to manupteach.org.



Dr. Patrick Washington



Dr. Irene Turnage, Susie Brown and R.J. Wilson



Donation to Dress for Success

Patrick Washington, founder and CEO of Man Up Teacher Fellowship, recently donated \$3,000 to the Holly Springs High School Dress for Success program. From left are Susie Brown, director of the Holly Springs Career and Technical Center; Nicole Lytle, program assistant for Man Up Teacher Fellowship; Dr. Washington; Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education for the Holly Springs School District; and Rev. Dr. R.J. Wilson, coordinator of the Dress for Success program. Dr. Turnage said she appreciates the district's partnership with Dr. Washington and Man Up Teacher Fellowship.

Photo courtesy of The South Reporter

Alumnus featured at Career Day

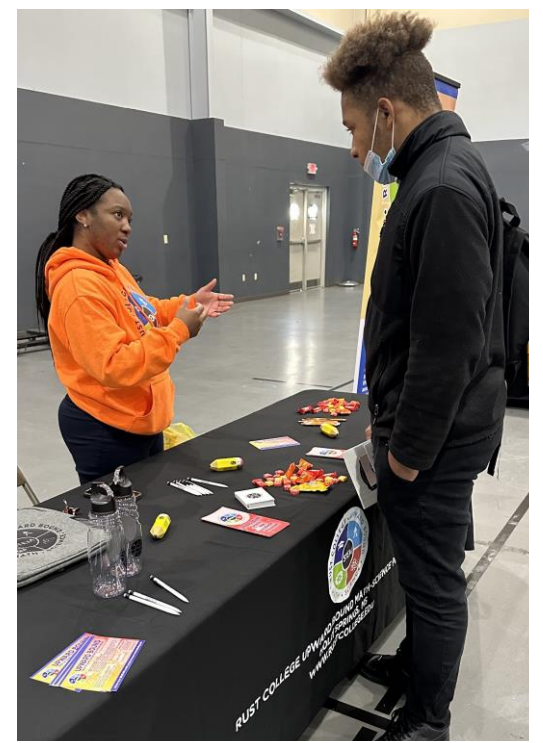


Participating in the Career Day this year was Linda K. Jeffries. She is a proud alumna of Holly Springs High School Class of 1989. She studied business administration at Northwest Community College. She went into computer sales until the industry shifted. She then found her passion in the beauty industry where she has pursued services geared toward healthy hair. Jeffries graduated from Tennessee Academy of Cosmetology in 1999, Memphis, Tenn., and since then she has received several certifications and was featured in two issues of She Rocks It Magazine. She is also an honoree of the Class of 2024 She Rocks It Award Gala in Naperville, Ill. She is the owner of LJ's Hair Flair Salon in Germantown, Tenn. Jeffries is the owner/founder of K*SMOOTH 0 % Professional Smoothing Treatments, a brand that she developed and launched, aiding clients transitioning from relaxers, perms or natural wanting better curl manageability. She is a mentor to youth and new beauty professionals with 25 years of wisdom, knowledge and skills she brings to the beauty industry. She is no stranger to her hometown as you can find her giving back to the community. Her motto is "Keep your shears sharpened with knowledge." She is the mother to her son Justin, and they reside in Memphis.

Rakiya Smith, Chamilya Watson and Chamiya Crane visit with Linda Jeffries during the Holly Springs Career and Technical Center College and Career Day.



Career and Technical Center College and Career Day



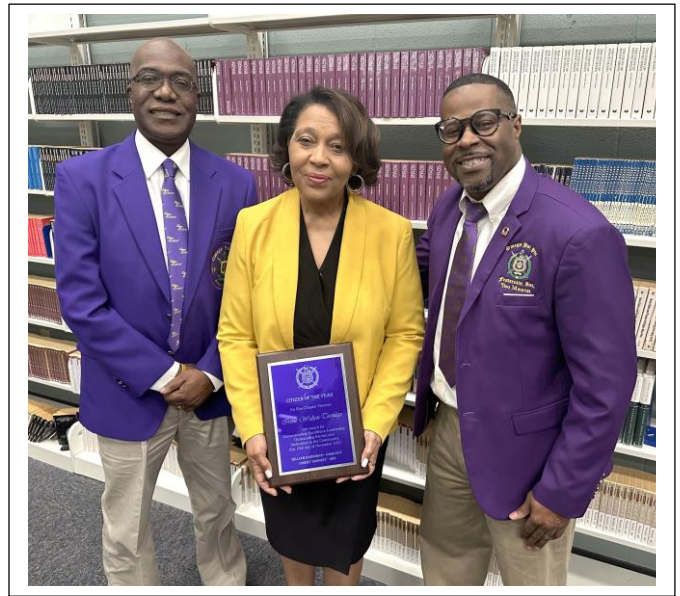
Blazers for students

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. provided blazers for students of Holly Springs Career and Technical Center who participate in program competitions.



Successful partnership

Members of The Mississippi Roses (MS) Chapter of The Links Incorporated have been partnering with the Holly Springs School District for over 10 years. Each program completed has exposed students to related careers. Two five-year programs have been completed where members worked with students for five consecutive years as part of a transformational program, The Ambassadors for Health. The current program, Classic Through the Ages, involves exposing students to different forms of classical music and art. As part of the Classic Through the Ages program, members of The Mississippi Roses provide musical instruments and lessons for students; expose students to various types of classical music like opera; and expose students to international forms of art. Below, students, Mississippi Roses members and school leaders attend a musical production, The Black Violin, at the Gertrude Ford Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Mississippi.



Citizen of the Year

The Psi Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity recently presented Dr. Irene Turnage, superintendent of education for the Holly Springs School District, its Citizen of the Year award. The prestigious award is for demonstrating excellent leadership, outstanding service, and dedication to the community. Making the presentation of the fraternity's highest honor to Turnage are Brian White (left) and Teo Mason. She thanked the men of Omega Psi Phi for the "very special" award, and she also recognized them for their outstanding support of the Holly Springs School District. "We have a long and wonderful relationship with the men of Omega Psi Phi, and for that I am so grateful," Turnage said.

The mission of the Holly Springs School District is to educate students who can Excel in the global community!



Basketball alumni game huge success; school gets \$12,000



From left are Assata Averett, Vikki Marion, Kim Mayfield, Lemon Phelps, Cravin Turnage, Darrel Thomas, Eileen Dowling, Dr. Irene Turnage, Dr. Gemma Beckley, Charisse Harris, Vicki Washington and Tennys Mayfield.

The success of the Holly Springs High School Alumni Basketball Game, held in conjunction with football Homecoming this school year, is mind-boggling, according to organizer Darrel Thomas.

“People are still talking about it,” he said. “The feedback we received is phenomenal.”

The event was a sellout.

“It was packed – wall-to wall,” said Thomas, a former Hawk and member of the Class of 1996. “The line was wrapped around the building. We had to turn people away. I was not surprised. I knew it was going to sell out. Holly Springs is the basketball capital.”

A check for \$12,000 was presented to Holly Springs High School, with 50 percent designated for athletics and 50 percent for the classroom.

Thomas said tying the alumni game in with Homecoming made perfect sense.

“A lot of people were already planning on coming to town,” he said. “We met with Mr. Turnage (Cravin), principal of the high school, and outlined our plan with the proceeds going to the school and then we put the plan into motion.

“We picked a date, and then got the word out to people and they started gravitating to it. The rest is history. It was a huge success.”

Assisting Thomas some in the legwork were Grant Glover and Chester “Chic” Campbell.

There were three games on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 – a women’s alumni contest and then two men’s games, players from the 1980s versus those of the 1990s and then a matchup of 2000-2006 versus 2007-2011.

Principal Turnage praised Thomas for his selflessness, dedication and hard work.

“One of my most favorite professors at the University of Mississippi, Dr. Dennis Bunch, once told me that I am one of the most selfless persons he has ever met,” Turnage said. “I don’t think he has ever met Mr. Darrel Thomas. Though I have not known Mr. Thomas for an extended period of time, I feel as though I’ve known him for a lifetime. We met when we had a meeting about the Holly Springs High School Alumni Basketball Game. I told Mr. Thomas that my hands were full in trying to move our school from a Successful to High-Performing status.

“He replied, ‘All I need is the OK from you and I’ll make it happen!’ Mr. Thomas’s words were golden because Mr. Thomas did just as he said. In my mind, he single-handedly made this event happen in a large way. Not only that, but he utilized thousands of his own personal dollars for seed money.

“This event was not paralleled by any similar event in the region. He worked hard by getting the gym open and organizing practice sessions, procuring security, paying for banners and having the City of Holly Springs to hang them, advertising, dropping videos, etc.

“From what I can see, his efforts did not stop there because his wife and sisters added their touches to dressing rooms, etc. Mr. Thomas purchased and had plaques engraved in an attempt to recognize and honor former coaches of the Holly Springs School District. I am confident that Mr. Thomas’ arms reached further than these words can ever express.”

However, Turnage said what gives his heart the most pride is “that the alumni game brought the community together.”

“It was a beautiful thing,” he said. “I am so grateful.”

Thomas said he hopes to make the alumni game an annual event in connection with Homecoming.

“There is so much talent covering the last 40 or 50 years of Holly Springs High School basketball,” he said. “The alumni game was really a no-brainer. It was indeed a special occasion – a big reunion for so many. I saw guys with tears in their eyes. It was a wonderful day for Holly Springs.”



HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT CALENDAR 2023 – 2024

BOARD APPROVED: February 27, 2023

JULY 26–28, 2023
AUGUST 3, 2023
AUGUST 3–4, 2023
AUGUST 7, 2023

NEW TEACHER ACADEMY
TEACHERS’ FIRST DAY
TEACHER ACADEMY
STUDENTS’ FIRST DAY

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
PROGRESS REPORTS

OCTOBER 2–6, 2023
OCTOBER 9, 2023
OCTOBER 10, 2023
OCTOBER 11, 2023
OCTOBER 18, 2023

FIRST NINE WEEKS EXAMS
FALL BREAK
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY/FALL BREAK STUDENTS
STUDENTS RETURN
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES (3:30 – 6:30 PM) REPORT CARDS

NOVEMBER 8, 2023
NOVEMBER 20–24, 2023

PROGRESS REPORTS
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 14–20, 2023
DECEMBER 20, 2023
DECEMBER 21, 2023–JANUARY 3, 2024

SECOND NINE WEEKS/FIRST SEMESTER EXAMS
60% DAY
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 4–5, 2024
JANUARY 8, 2024
JANUARY 15, 2024
JANUARY 17, 2024

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS/STUDENT HOLIDAYS
STUDENTS RETURN
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES (3:30 – 6:30 PM) REPORT CARDS

FEBRUARY 7, 2024
FEBRUARY 19, 2024

PROGRESS REPORTS
PRESIDENTS’ DAY HOLIDAY (MAKE-UP DAY)

MARCH 4–8, 2024
MARCH 11–15, 2024
MARCH 18, 2024
MARCH 19, 2024
MARCH 27, 2024

THIRD NINE WEEKS EXAMS
SPRING BREAK
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY/STUDENT HOLIDAY (MAKE-UP DAY)
STUDENTS RETURN
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES (3:30 – 6:30 PM) REPORT CARDS

MARCH 29, 2024
APRIL 1, 2024
APRIL 17, 2024

GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY
GOOD MONDAY HOLIDAY (MAKE-UP DAY)
PROGRESS REPORTS

MAY 20–24, 2024
MAY 24, 2024
MAY 24, 2024
MAY 27, 2024
MAY 28, 2024

4TH NINE WEEKS/SECOND SEMESTER EXAMS
STUDENTS’ LAST DAY (60% DAY)
GRADUATION - 7:00 PM
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
TEACHER WORK DAY (MAKE-UP DAY)

FIRST SEMESTER:
STUDENT DAYS – 86
FACULTY DAYS – 89

SECOND SEMESTER:
STUDENT DAYS – 94
FACULTY DAYS – 98

****The above calendar is subject to change for reasons of inclement weather conditions and/or state assessments. ****

MAKE-UP DAYS due to inclement weather conditions and/or state assessments will be as follows:

- FEBRUARY 19, 2024 (PRESIDENT’S DAY HOLIDAY)
- MARCH 18, 2024 (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY/STUDENT HOLIDAY)
- APRIL 1, 2024 (GOOD MONDAY HOLIDAY)
- MAY 28–29, 2024 (TEACHER WORK DAY + ONE)

Graduation – Friday, May 24 – 7:00 p.m. – Rust College