

# HIGH VALUE HIGH SCHOOLS FOR LOUISIANA

*Investing in Futures*

## Louisiana State Department of Education

"Create A World -Class Education System for all students in Louisiana"

### Mission

- Ensure high academic achievement for all students
- Eliminate all achievement gaps
- Prepare students to be effective citizens in a global market

## High School Redesign Goals

- Reduce Dropouts and Increase High School Graduation Rates
- Increase Readiness for Post-secondary Education
- Increase Career Readiness of Students
- Increase Participation in Post-secondary Education

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT PAUL PASTOREK



*Many great things are taking place in high schools across Louisiana. Unfortunately, these accomplishments often are under-publicized and/or unnoticed. This publication is the first of a series of newsletters that will remedy this oversight. Each month, we will highlight the successes of one or more high schools in our state. We will preview success stories in the making and recognize outstanding leaders. We hope this newsletter builds a better understanding of High Value High Schools and a greater appreciation for the positive strides Louisiana is taking toward ensuring that our graduates are college and career ready.*

## Spotlight on Benjamin Franklin High School



Benjamin Franklin High School (Ben Franklin), a public magnet high school, located on the University of New Orleans Campus, received the highest recognition of all Louisiana high schools in the widely publicized *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best High Schools" list. The 2009 report ranks Ben Franklin 16th out of the "Top 100/Gold Medal" rated high schools. Prior to this outstanding award, Ben Franklin received other notable honors, including:

- ◆ Named the top public high school in Louisiana since the implementation of the accountability system in 1999;
- ◆ Listed in *Newsweek* (May 8, 2006) as one of the public elite schools in the country; and
- ◆ Named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in 1989 and 2003.

Ben Franklin has several, diverse extra-curricular programs that allow students to compete at the local, state, and national levels. Ben Franklin's student writers and artists publish their works in regional publications as well as in the school's own *Riverbend Review*, a literary magazine showcasing the talents of Ben Franklin's student

### Franklin's Qualities of Success

- \* Innovative technology plan that integrates technology seamlessly into the curriculum
- \* Implementation of smaller learning communities approach to educating students through Teaching and Leadership Academy and its Communications Academy
- \* Strong emphasis on AP (Advanced Placement) enrollment for all students
- \* Fosters a school-wide culture of excellence

writers. Student artists may enroll in art, music, and drama programs at multiple levels. Qualified students take part in designated, school-based Talented Programs. Ben Franklin continues to strive for excellence and is meeting the needs of every student. Special recognition goes out to Principal Dr. Timothy G. Rusnak and his staff for a job well done!



Photos taken from Benjamin Franklin High School's website



Ms. Louella Givens currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District where Benjamin Franklin is located. Ms. Givens has had a varied and distinguished career. She has taught at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, served as a program evaluator for the Orleans Parish School Board, taught reading and math in a Title I Center at Hoffman Elementary, and practiced law privately and as an assistant city attorney. She has the unique distinction of being the first woman to represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> District since she was elected in 2003.

# Congratulations! "America's Best High Schools" in Louisiana

Congratulations to all districts, school leaders, faculty and staff who received recognition in the 2009 *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best High Schools" list, a nationwide review of academic and enrollment data.

More than 21,000 high schools in 48 states were reviewed using data from the 2006 – 2007 school year. The review was based on students' demonstrated proficiency in basic skills as well as readiness for college-level work.

In total, thirty-nine of Louisiana's high schools (approximately 10% of the state's public high schools) are recognized in the report as being some of "America's Best High Schools." This figure is testimony to the success of Louisiana's efforts at building educational programs that truly prepare its students for the opportunities of the future. The schools recognized in this report are leading examples of State Superintendent Paul Pastorek's vision to "Create a World-Class Education System for all students in Louisiana."



## Upcoming Events Corner

March 19-22, 2009 (New Orleans, LA)  
**NSTA National Conference on Science Education**,  
 New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center,  
 Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans Marriott,  
 and the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.  
<http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new/>

June 28– July 1, 2009 (Atlanta, GA)  
**Model School Summer Conference**  
<http://www.modelschoolsconference.com/>

July 8– July 11, 2009 (Atlanta, GA)  
**23rd Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference**  
<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/hstwindex.asp>

### GOLD MEDAL

- ◆ Benjamin Franklin (Orleans Parish)

### SILVER MEDAL

- ◆ Baton Rouge High School (East Baton Rouge Parish)
- ◆ Bolton High School (Rapides Parish)
- ◆ Caddo Parish Magnet High School (Caddo Parish)
- ◆ LSU Laboratory School (East Baton Rouge Parish)

### BRONZE MEDAL

- ◆ Anacoco High School (Vernon Parish)
- ◆ Arcadia High School (Bienville Parish)
- ◆ Avoyelles High School (Avoyelles Parish)
- ◆ Avoyelles Public Charter School (Avoyelles Parish)
- ◆ Berwick High School (St. Mary Parish)
- ◆ Calvin High School (Winn Parish)
- ◆ Castor High School (Bienville Parish)
- ◆ Chalmette (St. Bernard Parish)
- ◆ Ebarb High School (Sabine Parish)
- ◆ Florien High School (Sabine Parish)
- ◆ Forest High School (West Carroll Parish)
- ◆ Gueydan High School (Vermilion Parish),
- ◆ Harrisonburg High School (Catahoula Parish)
- ◆ Hathaway High School (Jefferson Davis Parish)
- ◆ Holden High School (Livingston Parish)
- ◆ Hornbeck High School (Vernon Parish)
- ◆ Kilbourne High School (West Carroll Parish)
- ◆ Lafayette High School (Lafayette Parish)
- ◆ Loreauville High School (Iberia Parish)
- ◆ Lusher Charter School (Orleans Parish)
- ◆ Mamou High School (Evangeline Parish)
- ◆ Marksville High School (Avoyelles Parish)
- ◆ McKinley Senior High School (East Baton Rouge Parish)
- ◆ Northshore High School (St. Tammany Parish)
- ◆ Phoenix High School (Plaquemines Parish)
- ◆ Pitkin High School (Vernon Parish)
- ◆ Sicily Island High School (Catahoula Parish)
- ◆ St. James High School (St. James Parish)
- ◆ Starks High School (Calcasieu Parish)
- ◆ Varnado High School (Washington Parish)
- ◆ West Feliciana High School (West Feliciana Parish)
- ◆ Weston High School (Jackson Parish)
- ◆ Winnfield Senior High School (Winn Parish)
- ◆ Zwolle High School (Sabine Parish)

## High School Redesign Contacts

### BESE Members

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Mr. Dale Bayard<br>7th BESE District        | Mr. Keith Guice<br>BESE President<br>5th BESE District |
| Mr. John L. Bennett<br>Member-at-Large      | Ms. Linda Johnson<br>8th BESE District                 |
| Ms. Glennie Lee Buquet<br>3rd BESE District | Mr. Walter Lee<br>4th BESE District                    |
| Ms. Penny Dastugue<br>Member-at-Large       | Ms. Tammie A. McDaniel<br>Member-at-Large              |
| Mr. James Garvey, Jr.<br>1st BESE District  | Mr. Charles Roemer<br>6th BESE District                |
| Ms. Louella Givens<br>2nd BESE District     | Dr. Amy Westbrook<br>Executive Director                |

### State Staff

|   |  |                                      |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Executive Officer<br>Dr. Kerry Lastier<br>(225) 242-6025  | Ed. Prog. Consultants<br>Dr. Beverly Faust<br>(225) 219-7392 | Tiffanie Lewis<br>(225) 342-9219     |
| Executive Director<br>Kathy Mouton<br>(225) 342-3353      | Mary Gugich<br>(225) 342-3352                                | Josh Posey<br>(225) 342-3345         |
| Adm. Prog. Director<br>Wendy Thibodeaux<br>(225) 342-3342 | Martha Levy<br>(225) 342-5981                                | Jason Cooper<br>(225) 219-0369       |
| Ed. Cons 5-B<br>Dr. Jennifer Falls<br>(225) 342-9442      | Admin. Assistants<br>Kaffia Johnson<br>(225) 219-4441        | Jennifer Robertson<br>(225) 219-0369 |

### Regional Coordinators

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Region 1<br>Vacant                             | Region 5<br>Stephanie Rogers<br>(337) 491-2951 |
| Region 2<br>Caroline Woods<br>(985) 549-2514   | Region 6<br>Susan Horne<br>(318) 357-2427      |
| Region 3<br>Shelba Harlan<br>(985) 449-7136    | Region 7<br>Kelly Sandoz<br>(318) 797-0728     |
| Region 4<br>Ralph Thibodeaux<br>(337) 262-5185 | Region 8<br>Sheila Walker<br>(318) 325-0451    |