

## Head of School Board Report

March 14, 2025

It has been a busy and great month since we last met. As you will see from the updates provided below, we have experienced accomplishments in academic, artistic, and athletic competitions. We have done important community service and experienced field trips. We have competed in House Games (Field Day), held a Fairy Tale Ball, put on a high-quality musical production of Beetlejuice to great ticket sales and acclaim, and spent a lot of time with books during Read Across America and in the Lower School Library at the Scholastic Book Fair. It has been an invigorating time.

The committees involved with many of the school's recent Strategic Plan/Accreditation Goals have been diligently working behind the scenes. We have been working on improving communications and have also been working on exploring options for the annual and daily academic schedule that best meets our needs, is mission-appropriate, and helps us retain our standing as the academic school of choice in the Wiregrass and a premiere independent school in the Southeast. In fact, parents and students in grades 5 through 12 were invited to complete surveys regarding the schedule and school calendar so that we have additional data to consider moving forward.

This year, the focus of our curriculum assessment and review process is Technology. We are visiting peer schools in Atlanta, Mobile, and Huntsville (including the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, the Alabama School of Science and Math, Wesleyan School, and Randolph School). We are focusing upon the scope and sequence (what technology knowledge, skills, and capacities are taught at what grade level), safety and security (how to keep our students and our data safe online), and Artificial Intelligence (what possibilities does AI have for us and how can we best train our students and faculty members to use it ethically and productively).

Regarding faculty retention, we will post a number of teaching positions that we have available on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. We have had a few retirements, a relocation, and the expansion to an additional 3P class. We will start the hiring process immediately.

What follows are the updates from select members of the HA Leadership Team:

<b>Mrs. Julie Kinney</b> – Head of Lower School	<u>Lower School Highlights:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Various field trips, including 5K to Westgate Library, 4P to Wiregrass Public Safety Center, 3P to Dentist</li><li>• Successful LS Spelling Bee</li><li>• Events including Preschool Chinese New Year Parade, 5K 100 Days of School with Hat Parade, 1st Grade Inaugural Fairy Tale Ball,</li><li>• Read Across America with Character Parade</li><li>• Scholastic Book Fair with total sales around \$10,000</li><li>• Hits for Heroes School-wide Event with around \$3500 total raised.</li></ul> Veteran Guest Speaker Coin Drive: \$1870
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	<p>Bake Sale: \$1570 Basketball Game: \$52</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Art Month Exhibition at WMA (17 LS Selected)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mrs. Jenny Uible</b> – Head of Middle School</p>	<p><u>Middle School Highlights:</u></p> <p>Testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MS will have standardized testing week on March 17-19 with makeups on March 20-21. (ERB)</li> <li>8th graders will take the PreACT on April 9<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>MS Fun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7th and 8th grade Dance on February 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>House games were a hit on February 26<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>Field Trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6th graders enjoyed their annual trip to the Shakespeare festival to see <i>Watsons Go to Birmingham</i> (a book they had just completed in class) - (Feb 12).</li> <li>The 5th graders' overnight field trip to St. Augustine was a great success. (Feb 20-21)</li> <li>The 8th grade will go to Monroeville to see <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> (a book they just completed) - (April 2).</li> </ul> <p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MS Scholars Bowl Team: Great job, MS Scholar's Bowl, on placing second in the AISA State Scholar's Bowl Championship. The MS Scholar Bowl team is Abby Gibson, Sutton Jones, Charles Mendheim, Jackson Necessary, Samantha Podloski, Rayan Riyaz, Channing Taylor, Hayes Waddell, and Ryker Wagner.</li> <li>Congratulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MS Band: Several of our MS band members auditioned for the All-State and District 8 Honor Band. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performance: Christina Bai (Clarinet- District 8), Tinsley Holmes (French horn- District 8 &amp; All State) Harris Naung (percussion- District 8 &amp; All State), Samantha Podloski (percussion- District 8) and Melisa Yilmaz (Oboe District 8 &amp; Alternate All State). They will be performing on March 7-8 in Enterprise Performing Arts Center, and the concert is free and open to the public.</li> <li>Shout Outs to MS Creativity: The following artists had pieces selected for the 2025 Youth Art Month Exhibition at the Wiregrass Museum of Art: Beck Edwards, Emery Steensland, Hayden Spivey, Maeve Heersink, Sharon Chen, Mali Veale, Monroe Curry, Emma Eldridge, Reese White, and Alli Morris. Their art will be on display for the month of March. A special congratulations to Monroe Curry for winning the top prize. Her sculpture will be displayed for the entire year at the Wiregrass Museum of Art.</li> <li>Wahoo MS Science Fair: Congratulations to the MS students that competed in the local Science Fair on February 5th. Quinn</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Nelson, Samantha Podloski, Eleanor Heersink, Jaxon Morales, Travis Payne, Namish Avula, Hayley Phillips, and Emerson Green. Samantha Podloski, Travis Payne, and Hayley Phillips will be competing in the GEARSF on March 14th in Montgomery.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Craig Selig –</b> Head of Upper School</p>	<p><u>US Event Highlights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Shout-Outs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PSAT/NMSQT Finalist = Jason Munn</li> <li>○ US Scholars Bowl = AISA State Runner Up</li> <li>○ Hatch (Hudson Alfa hackathon) = finalists</li> <li>○ Raider of the Quarter = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grade 9: Aiden Phillips</li> <li>▪ Grade 10: Lillian Byrd</li> <li>▪ Grade 11: Bennett Amason and Emily Maddox</li> <li>▪ Grade 12: Mac Adkinson</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Band = Straight Superior Ratings at recent competition and many individuals recently earned honor recognitions</li> <li>○ Drama = Incredible performance of Beetlejuice</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Course Selection / College Counseling Nights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grade 11: April 9</li> <li>○ Grade 10: April 16</li> <li>○ Grade 9: April 23</li> <li>○ Grade 8: April 30</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential New Courses for 2025-26: AP Studio Art, Cybersecurity I/II, Personal Finance, Alabama History</li> <li>• Upcoming US Special Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March 14: SGA End-of-Quarter Celebration (Cookout and Cornhole)</li> <li>○ March 17-21: US Short-Term Trips and Local Experiences</li> <li>○ April 4: Prom</li> <li>○ April 8: Standardized Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grade 11 = ACT</li> <li>▪ Grades 9/10 = PreACT</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>College Counseling Data and Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 59 seniors have submitted 285 applications.</li> <li>• 58 of our seniors have received at least one acceptance letter; the 1 senior who has not is planning to complete his religious mission (A. Gil).</li> <li>• 10 applications were deferred (meaning they will be considered in the next round of admissions).</li> <li>• 14 applications were denied (of those 14, 10 denials were at universities with less than 20% acceptance rate).</li> <li>• 44 applications are still pending.</li> <li>• 44 students have made their college selections. Of these commits, they have chosen 8 universities in 6 states (in Alabama, New York, Kansas,</li> </ul>

	<p>Florida, Mississippi, and North Carolina).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly selective universities (less than 30% acceptance rate) that students have been accepted to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duke</li> <li>- Notre Dame</li> <li>- Tulane</li> <li>- Georgia Tech</li> <li>- University of Miami</li> <li>- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill</li> <li>- Florida State University</li> <li>- Case Western Reserve University</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Still pending Vanderbilt, Harvard, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Washington University in St. Louis, Yale, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Mr. Jerry Browning</b> – Athletic Director</p>	<p><u><b>Athletics Highlights:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varsity Boys Basketball Made it to the AHSAA Final Four.</li> <li>• Varsity Girls Participated in Sub Regional Game.</li> <li>• Macaulay Flanagan (Indoor Track) won Girls 4A -5A 400 Meter.</li> <li>• Abe Haskins Qualified for State Wrestling Tournament.</li> <li>• Boys Soccer is 13-3 overall (8-0 in Region Play).</li> <li>• Girls Soccer is 11-1-2 overall (5-0 Region Play).</li> <li>• Softball is 9-2 overall (Undefeated in Area Play).</li> <li>• Baseball I 6-9 overall (2-0 in Area Play).</li> <li>• Tennis - Boys and Girls Team won the Dothan Tennis Association Shootout. Boys Tennis is 7-1. Girls Tennis is also 7-1.</li> </ul> <p>Note : Unless there is a change which I do not anticipate, below details the format for reclassification.</p> <p>For the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, the AHSAA (Alabama High School Athletic Association) uses a seven-classification system based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) figures for grades 9-11, plus eighth-grade hold-back students as provided by the State Department of Education.</p> <p>Here's a breakdown of the AHSAA classification system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seven Classifications:</b> The AHSAA uses a seven-classification system, with the 32 largest schools in Class 7A, and the remaining schools divided as evenly as possible into the other six classes.</li> <li>• <b>Class 7A:</b> The 32 largest schools by enrollment.</li> <li>• <b>Class 6A:</b> Approximately 60 schools.</li> <li>• <b>Class 5A:</b> Approximately 61 schools.</li> <li>• <b>Class 4A:</b> Approximately 60 schools.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Class 3A:</b> Approximately 60 schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently: Houston Academy 242....Largest 3A = 278.8 ...Smallest 3A = 209</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Class 2A:</b> Approximately 58 schools.</li> <li>• <b>Class 1A:</b> Approximately 58 schools.</li> <li>• <b>Private School Index:</b> An index of 1.35 is used to determine the enrollment figure for classifying private school members (which means that every one of our 9 – 11 students is equal to 1.35 students).</li> </ul> <p>The count is done immediately following Labor Day. You take the next 20 consecutive school days and record the ADM. The next reclassification number will be sent next fall (in September 2025) to go into effect the next school year (the 2026-27 school year).</p> <p><i>Vince's addendum: Given that the CHOOSE Act might have a sizable impact of school enrollments starting in August (as well over 50% of the families that have applied for inclusion in the program have indicated a desire to move students from public to private schools), it will be interesting to see what that does to enrollment figures and, thus, classification. As a part of enrollment management, we have to consider these classification figures and aim to have our enrollment 25 to 50% lower than the largest school in 3A, hoping that will protect us from moving to 4A. (It is worth noting, also, that many of our sports already compete above the 3A level as a result of our past success and the competitive balance provision in which private schools that earn a threshold of points in a sport are moved to the next highest classification.)</i></p>
<p><b>Ms. Nicole Lisenby –</b> Director of Admissions</p>	<p><b>Admissions Highlights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is our busiest time of the year.</li> <li>• We have processed 138 total applications as of March 1, which is the highest number to date for the first round of admissions contracts. The vast majority of interest has been in Lower School, with a moderate amount of Middle School applications, and relatively few Upper School applications.</li> <li>• Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School Admissions Committees met to go over the applications this week. Enrollment contracts will be sent on or before March 21st.</li> <li>• If we can assume that the majority of the contracts tendered will be accepted, at this point we are “full” and will have wait pools for the following grades for next year: 3P, 4P, 1, 3, 4, and 8.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are doing our best to make decisions cognizant of managing student numbers so that we can remain a school with a close, family feel and are comfortably in the 3A grouping.</li> </ul>
<b>Mr. Brian Jackson</b> – Director of Marketing and Communications and Sports Information Director	<p><u>Communications, Sports Information, and Coaching Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Media Engagement: A total of 27 posts were published from February 28 – March 8, maintaining strong engagement and visibility across all platforms.</li> <li>Senior Spotlights: Our annual Senior Spotlights campaign has launched, celebrating the Class of 2025 with personalized features highlighting their achievements. There will be a senior spotlighted every school day until the end of May.</li> <li>Performing Arts Collaboration: A highly successful promotional campaign was executed in collaboration with the Performing Arts Department to support Beetlejuice Jr., boosting awareness and ticket sales.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><u>Website Development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Houston Academy website continues to progress on schedule.</li> <li>Launch Date: May 2, 2025.</li> <li>Final Editing Phase: April 15–24, 2025.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><u>Soccer Program &amp; Tournament Success:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varsity Boys Record: Currently 12-3 overall, 7-0 in region play. Big games for GW Long and Providence this week before we hit a 2 week break.</li> <li>Career Varsity Soccer Coaching Record: 46 wins, 15 losses, 2 ties.</li> <li>Houston Academy Soccer Tournament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted 52 teams, making it the largest tournament in the state.</li> <li>Drew an attendance of 3,500 patrons.</li> <li>Generated \$45,000 in net profit, directly supplementing the soccer program.</li> <li>Contributed nearly \$500,000 in economic impact to Dothan, as determined by Visit Dothan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Program Investments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchasing two iPads to enhance the HA Raider Band Boosters’ concession and operational efficiency.</li> <li>Considering a portable scoreboard for the Westgate soccer fields ahead of playoffs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p><u>SAIS Strategic Goal 3 Update - Communications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAIS Goal 3 Meetings are scheduled for April to refine the selection of key platforms that will enhance communication and engagement at Houston Academy.</li> <li>Finalists (narrowed from 19 applications):</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HA Sports App (Ballfrog) – Improving real-time sports/extracurriculars coverage.</li> <li>• School Messenger (Email) – Strengthening school-wide communications.</li> <li>• Band App – Enhancing internal coordination for teams and clubs.</li> <li>• PowerSchool – Optimizing academic and administrative management.</li> </ul> <p>With continued momentum in marketing, sports information, and program development, Houston Academy remains committed to excellence on and off the field.</p>
<b>Mrs. Melanie Woodock –</b> Director of Technology	<p><u>Technology Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helped coordinate and plan three Technology Curriculum Assessment and Review Team visits to schools in Atlanta, Mobile, and Huntsville.</li> <li>• Facilitated the installation of new watertight boxes in the Upper School parking lot to solve water/moisture issues that were affecting the cameras.</li> <li>• Maintained hardware, software, networking, and resources for students, faculty, and staff.</li> <li>• Provided tech support for students, faculty, and staff in a timely manner</li> </ul> <p><u>Projects in Progress:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollout of Ecollect Forms, an add-on to PowerSchool that will allow teachers and administrators to handle permission forms, etc. electronically.</li> <li>• Setup and configuration of school-wide access to Adobe for Education.</li> </ul>
<b>Dr. Mike Eiland –</b> Director of Facilities and Grounds	<p><u>Recent Facilities and Grounds Accomplishments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We replaced ceilings/upgraded lights in Heersink Gym Hallway and associated areas. The only major areas left with fluorescent lights after this project are the US Dove Center (which is scheduled to be upgraded this summer), the preschool classrooms (which we are going to begin upgrading over spring break), and the US science labs (which are on my radar to upgrade next summer).</li> <li>• I'm not sure if this qualifies, but we have officially mounted all of the Promethean Boards (interactive white boards that are common in all of our classrooms) that we are going to mount with the exception of a couple we are going to do over the summer for various reasons.</li> <li>• We got the new shades installed in 600/601 and have received new chairs for the space (so that we can seat one grade level when the divider is open).</li> </ul> <p><u>Ongoing Major Projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plumbing issues/leak near the gyms: we have successfully rerouted water from the EDC to replace the original supply line (which would have</li> </ul>

	<p>cost into five digits to have a plumber replace) which has isolated the original supply line that's leaking somewhere under the building. We now have to find and cap the tee to the original supply line to stop the leak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As mentioned above, we are going to begin replacing ceilings and lights in the PS classrooms over spring break--we are in the <i>procuring supplies</i> stage of that project.</li><li>• We are currently in the beginning stages--getting quotes etc.--for the Dove Center upstairs upgrade this summer, which will include paint, lights and new floors throughout.</li></ul>																																				
<div>James Holmes – Performing Arts Department Chair</div>	<p><u>Performing Arts Update:</u></p> <p><b>BAND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual Honors:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ HONOR BAND INFORMATION &amp; SELECTIONS<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ On January 18, 2025, several students from the Houston Academy Band program auditioned for the Alabama All-State Honor Bands and the Alabama District VIII Honor Bands. These auditions required students to perform scales, two prepared pieces, and sight-read for a panel of judges.</li><li>▪ On March 7-8, all of these talented students, along with others selected from across our district, traveled to Enterprise, AL, to prepare and perform a concert at the Enterprise Performing Arts Center.</li><li>▪ The students selected for the All-State Honor Band will advance to the Alabama All-State Honor Bands on April 10-12 in Mobile, AL. There, they will prepare and perform a concert alongside the top student musicians from across Alabama.</li><li>▪ Following Students were selected to the District 8 and/or All-State Honor Bands:</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> <table><tr><th><u>Middle School</u></th><th><u>Grade</u></th><th><u>Honor Band</u></th></tr><tr><td>Christina Bai, <i>clarinet</i></td><td>8th Grade</td><td>District 8</td></tr><tr><td>Tinsley Holmes, <i>french horn</i></td><td>7th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; All-State</td></tr><tr><td>Harris Naung, <i>percussion</i></td><td>6th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; All-State</td></tr><tr><td>Samantha Podloski, <i>percussion</i></td><td>7th Grade</td><td>District 8</td></tr><tr><td>Melisa Yilmaz, <i>oboe</i></td><td>7th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; Alternate All-State</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th><u>High School</u></th><th><u>Grade</u></th><th><u>Honor Band</u></th></tr><tr><td>Megan Hartman, <i>clarinet</i></td><td>11th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; Alternate All-State</td></tr><tr><td>Max Hobbie, <i>alto sax</i></td><td>10th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; Alternate All-State</td></tr><tr><td>Destin Martin, <i>percussion</i></td><td>11th Grade</td><td>District 8</td></tr><tr><td>Jason Mun, <i>percussion</i></td><td>12th Grade</td><td>District 8 &amp; All-State</td></tr><tr><td>Madilyn Potter, <i>clarinet</i></td><td>12th Grade</td><td>District 8</td></tr></table>	<u>Middle School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Honor Band</u>	Christina Bai, <i>clarinet</i>	8th Grade	District 8	Tinsley Holmes, <i>french horn</i>	7th Grade	District 8 & All-State	Harris Naung, <i>percussion</i>	6th Grade	District 8 & All-State	Samantha Podloski, <i>percussion</i>	7th Grade	District 8	Melisa Yilmaz, <i>oboe</i>	7th Grade	District 8 & Alternate All-State	<u>High School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Honor Band</u>	Megan Hartman, <i>clarinet</i>	11th Grade	District 8 & Alternate All-State	Max Hobbie, <i>alto sax</i>	10th Grade	District 8 & Alternate All-State	Destin Martin, <i>percussion</i>	11th Grade	District 8	Jason Mun, <i>percussion</i>	12th Grade	District 8 & All-State	Madilyn Potter, <i>clarinet</i>	12th Grade	District 8
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	<p>Merrill Scarbrough, <i>clarinet</i>      11th Grade      District 8 &amp; Alternate All-State</p> <p>Abby Skinner, <i>clarinet</i>      9th Grade      District 8 Alternate All-State</p> <p>Eva Sturridge, <i>clarinet</i>      9th Grade      District 8</p> <p>Parker Williams, <i>flute</i>      12th Grade      District 8</p> <p>Bottom Line Numbers:</p> <p>5 MS Students Selected to the District 8 Honor Band</p> <p>1 MS Student Selected to the Alternate All-State Honor Band</p> <p>2 MS Students Selected to the All-State Honor Band</p> <p>9 HS Students Selected to the District 8 Honor Band</p> <p>4 HS Student Selected to the Alternate All-State</p> <p>1 HS Student Selected to the All-State Honor Band</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Following Students were selected to participate in the Southeastern United States Honor Band (<i>SEUS</i>) held at Troy University on Feb. 6-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max Hobbie, alto sax      10th Grade</li> <li>• Jason Mun, <i>percussion</i>      12th Grade</li> <li>• Madilyn Potter, <i>clarinet</i>      12th Grade</li> <li>• Abby Skinner, <i>clarinet</i>      9th Grade</li> <li>• Parker Williams, <i>flute</i>      12th Grade</li> <li>• Composition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parker Williams submitted an original composition “Something in the Haze” for flute and piano to the Enterprise Music Club Composition Competition.</li> <li>▪ Results are expected to be released on April 1, 2025.</li> <li>▪ This project was part of their independent study work.</li> <li>▪ Parker is currently working on a piece written for our beginning band to be premiered at our spring concert.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Full Band Honors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (MPA): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Music Performance Assessment (MPA) is a significant event for our band, representing the highest level of full-band evaluation offered by the Alabama Bandmasters Association. Unlike other activities, band programs do not have a designated state championship. MPA is the closest equivalent event offered, serving as the premier evaluation of full band performances in Alabama.</li> <li>▪ On March 4, 2025 the US Band received <i>Straight Superior Ratings</i> at the Alabama Bandmasters Association State Music Performance Assessment (MPA)</li> <li>▪ Superior is the highest possible rating any judge may give.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spring Band Concerts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sunday, May 4th @ 3:00 pm in the Grand Hall.</li> <li>▪ Explorer Band</li> <li>▪ Beginning Band</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- Upper School Band
- Band Banquet
  - Thursday, May 8th @ 6:30 pm in the Grand Hall.
- Solo & Ensemble Festival
  - Saturday, May 10th Grand Hall, Killingworth Gym.
  - Houston Academy is hosting this event for ABA District 8
  - Students have the opportunity to prepare solos and small ensemble performances to be performed for judges. Superior Ratings will earn a medal.
- Graduation
  - US Band will perform prelude, processional, and recessional at Graduation Services.

#### CHORUS

- Honors:
  - Three of our students were selected through an audition process to perform at the 2025 Alabama All-State Honor Choir Festival at the BJCC in Birmingham, AL on April 3-5.
    - Megan Hartman - 11th Grade - High School SSAA Honor Choir
    - Addison McNeal - 10th Grade -High School SSAA Honor Choir
    - Emma Buchanan - 8th Grade - Middle School Mixed Choir
  - CS Music All-State Classical/Musical Theatre Soloist
    - Addison McNeal was named one of Alabama's top 10 All-State Soloists. This accomplishment will include her in the annual recruiting report for colleges and advance her to the second round of the CS Music Vocal Competition in Chicago, IL.
  - Senior Kaleb Dukes was accepted into the prestigious University of Michigan College of Music, Theatre, and Dance as an incoming theatre major.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Southland Show Choir Classic 2025
    - Our 31 student show choir will perform a competition set at Enterprise High School to 1,800 seats on Saturday, March 15th at 6:30 pm. This is the first time an HA choir has ever competed at a show choir competition. Their performance will include costuming, set pieces, lighting, and props.
    - Students will perform a preview show for parents Friday, March 14th at 5:00 pm.
  - Spring Showcase
    - HA Performing Arts will present its Fall Showcase in Grand Hall on April 15th at 6:30 pm. Individual and group performances may include instrumental music, percussion, choral music, musical theatre/classical vocal solos, theatre scenes, and dance.
  - Performing Arts Spring Trip to Disney

- Choir and theatre students will travel to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL on April 24-27. Students will participate in a backstage recording session with industry professionals during their trip. .
- Spring Choral Concert
  - May 6th at 6:30 pm in EDC Grand Hall
  - Performances by 5th Grade Choir, HARmonix, and Show Choir
- Performing Arts Banquet
  - May 15th at 6:00 pm in the EDC Grand Hall
  - Participants of Moana Jr, Beetlejuice Jr, Drama, Show Choir, and HARmonix will enjoy a banquet dinner and celebrate the year's accomplishments with a slideshow presentation and award presentations.
  - Performing Arts seniors will be recognized.
  - Next year's musicals will be announced at the banquet.
- Graduation
  - Show Choir and HARmonix will perform a choral selection during the graduation ceremony.

#### DRAMA

- PERFORMANCES

- Beetlejuice Jr. - US Spring Musical (8-12th Grade)
  - Cast of and crew of 40 performed a school show and three regular ticketed shows March 6-9 in the Elizabeth Dove Cook Grand Hall.
  - HA Performing Arts partnered with Kelsey Barnard Clark to create a special Beetle Juice that was marketed and sold to audiences.
  - This was our highest grossing musical to date.

- UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring Showcase
  - HA Performing Arts will present its Fall Showcase in Grand Hall on April 15th at 6:30 pm. Individual and group performances may include instrumental music, percussion, choral music, musical theatre/classical vocal solos, theatre scenes, and dance.
- The Customer is Always Wrong
  - The Theatre Production/Drama class will present its spring straight play The Customer is Always Wrong in EDC Grand Hall on Friday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm.

#### LS MUSIC

- Performances:

- The Inaugural First Grade Fairy Tale Ball
  - Our First Graders wowed their parents with Houston Academy's inaugural "Fairy Tale Ball". They made grand

	<p>entrances, recited lines, sang a beautiful song, and performed a ballroom dance partner routine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming Performances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The 2nd Grade Luau - April 25th</li> <li>○ Mayfair Opening Ceremonies (3rd Grade) - May 1st</li> <li>○ 4th Grade Luncheon - May 16th</li> <li>○ Kindergarten End-of-the-year Program - May 20th</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Anna Beasley –</b> Visual Arts Department Chair</p>	<p><u>Visual Arts Update:</u> The following student's artwork was chosen to hang in the Wiregrass Museum of Art the month of March.</p> <p>3P - Griffin Gilmore, Hudson Northcutt 4P - James Martin) K - Charlotte Wright, Karter Jackson 1<sup>st</sup> - Madelyn Creamer, Will Pierce, Monroe Clark 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ruth Adams 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lily St. Amant, Adeline Armstrong, Eva Aplin 4<sup>th</sup> - Timmy Chen, Margaret Gay, Liam Mahan, Sanvi Chirag Patel 5<sup>th</sup> - Beck Edwards, Emery Steensland, Hayden Leigh Spivey Middle School - Monroe Curry – (also won the Wiregrass Museum of Art Award), Maeve Heersink, Alli Morris, Emma Eldridge, Reese White, Mali Veale, Sharon Chen High School - Adeline Egbert (also won runner up for Best Acrylic in the 2nd Congressional Competition), Jansen Kirkland (also won runner up for Best Watercolor in the 2nd Congressional Competition), Lillian Byrd, Mary Parker Williams, Yi Lin Bai, William Lisenby</p> <p>MS and US participated in the Egg Quest at the Botanical Gardens. US students participated in The Memory Project and painted portraits of orphaned children in India.</p> <p>Our District Competition is April 1st in Luverne, AL.</p>

Happily trying to keep the positive momentum going and profoundly proud to serve as the Head of School at HA!

Thank you for all that you do for HA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vince Janney