

ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOLS

Inspiring Hope and Purpose



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. JAMES PARISH SCHOOLS CELEBRATES THE BEGINNING OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR WITH DISTRICT-WIDE CONVOCATION

On Monday, August 4, 2025, St. James Parish Schools celebrated the beginning of a new school year as all staff gathered in the Lutcher High School Auditorium for the annual Beginning of the Year Convocation.

Keynote speaker, Mickey Smith Jr., inspired all employees with his wit, his love of education, and his musical talent. As he entered the room playing his saxophone, employees began the day with music and dance. Mr. Smith spoke inspiration into the crowd as he told stories of his time as a teacher and his experience enhancing the lives of his students' minds. "You do more than teach...I would even challenge you to consider this: that the sound that you share is the sound that you already cared about. You don't have to go outside of yourself to be their best hope this year...what's in you is greater than anything coming against you."

Mr. Chris Kimball, Superintendent of Schools, addressed employees on the importance of being present for our students. "I want to remind you of something I truly believe: St. James Parish Schools is 'The Place To Be.' It's not just a slogan—it's our identity. It's a reflection of the people in this room and across every campus and department. You are what makes this district special. You are the reason parents send their children to us with hope and trust. You are the difference-makers."

St. James Parish Schools would like to thank Mosaic and First American Bank for their generosity in sponsoring the Beginning of the Year Convocation for all St. James Parish Schools Employees and for continuing to foster relationships that make St. James Parish Schools #ThePlaceToBe.