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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bentonville Schools Expands Parent Choice Offerings
Three Additional Learning Models to Open in 2025

Parent Choice Schools at a Glance

- Parent choice schools represent an evolution in the education of our students.
- These schools offer students and parents an opportunity to choose the learning environment that best suits their goals and interests.
- We have several elementary schools in downtown Bentonville where enrollment is lower than capacity. (Student growth continues to the west of the city, leaving some elementary schools, including Vaughn, Evening Star and Centerton Gamble at capacity.)
- Parent Choice Schools will offer a tailored educational setting and expand enrollment numbers.
- Every school in Bentonville Schools offers a high-quality education filled with opportunities unique to that campus.

Bentonville, Ark.—December 10, 2024—Bentonville Schools will add three additional parent choice schools in the fall of 2025. These schools are Ruth Barker Middle School, Sugar Creek Arts Academy and Thomas Jefferson Leadership Academy. Students currently zoned for these elementary schools will retain their seats, but additional families will also receive the opportunity to enroll in January.

Sugar Creek Arts Academy will welcome students in the fall of 2025 with an arts integration learning model. Teachers will support learning by integrating the principles of visual and performing arts in daily instruction. Students will have tremendous opportunities to work with our community partners, including Crystal Bridges, Amazeum and local artists and performers.

Thomas Jefferson Leadership Academy will enhance the academic setting by creating young leaders ready to positively impact their school, community and world. Students will collaborate with community leaders to understand how organizations operate and tackle real-world challenges. We believe these experiences will foster stronger character, integrity and focus in our students.

Ruth Barker Middle School will introduce an International Baccalaureate Program upon certification. IB curriculum encourages students to adopt a global perspective when learning through a commitment to respect, inquiry, growth and service.

The addition of these three parent choice schools brings the total number to five. The International School at Mary Mae Jones and Apple Glen Elementary opened to students outside

of their boundaries in August 2024.

About Bentonville Schools

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas, serving more than 19,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Twenty-four schools, spanning more than 143 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit **bentonvillek12.org**

