

# Trailblazers Today

Notes from Principal McAuliffe

**September 2025**

Dear Families,

Today marks our 15th day of the school year. I am impressed by how much the students have already accomplished. I hope that it has been a good start for your student. In case you need to reach me, you can always do so via SchoolStatus or by email or phone (below).

This monthly newsletter is called Trailblazers Today because we are the Ardis Ann Trailblazers. Ardis Ann Larson-Cole was the founding principal of Spring Hill Middle School in 1995 and the school was renamed in her honor after her passing in 2008. Her perspective on perseverance is captured in this quote of hers that is displayed in our halls: "All people have bumps in life that they must overcome while blazing a path into the future."

Our school's STAR qualities - **Safety, Tenacity, Accountability, Respect** - echo this idea of blazing a trail and persevering along the way. Every week, we recognize and celebrate students who stand out for exhibiting these STAR qualities at school.

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## Coffee & Conversation

I will host several of these this year. They are meant to be an opportunity for you to share questions, concerns, and ideas in an informal setting (and to reboot with a cup of coffee).

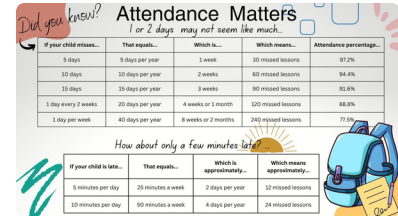


We conduct emergency drills (fire, tornado, lockdown) throughout the school year. You can find age-appropriate talking points on our district website if you want to talk to your student about the serious nature of threats online or at school. Click **Menu**, then **Parents**, then **Security Resources**. Also, if you and/or your student sees or hears something concerning, please immediately report it to the police or call the Bentonville Schools Tip Line at (479) 367-8080.



## Attendance

Every morning, I announce classes that had perfect attendance the previous day, and classes earn special rewards when they reach certain attendance milestones. In The Counselor Connection, our guidance counselors' newsletter, they included this graphic, which shows the significant impact of attendance on learning. Thank you for partnering with us as we aim to reach our goal of 94.5% school-wide attendance this year. As of today, we're at 96.51%, so keep up the great work!



## Daily schedules

Students attend five 60-minute periods: Literacy, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Encore, which rotates between Phys. Ed., Art, and Music/Choir/Band/Orchestra. Additionally, they begin the day with a 30-minute period called STAR. During this time, they might read independently, practice literacy and math skills through online programs called IXL, Zearn, and Reflex, receive extra help, participate in an enrichment activity, or, later this quarter, begin attending clubs.

Each day, students also have a 40-minute period called BLT (Blazer Learning Time), during which teachers meet with small groups of students to provide academic intervention services. Students may also attend Computer Science, extra Phys. Ed. periods, or extra reading time in the library. A student's BLT schedule can potentially change every 4-5 weeks, depending on how they are progressing in class.

## Reminders

Dates:

- PTO meeting Friday, 9/12 at 9:00 a.m.
- Fall Picture Day is Thursday, 9/25
- Immunization deadline Wednesday, 10/1
- Parent-Teacher Conferences Oct. 23 and 28

Also:

- Students must wear their ID badge daily.
- Breakfast is free for all students. [Click here](#) to add funds to your student's lunch account and/or apply for free/reduced lunch benefits.
- [Click here](#) if you cannot access your student's ATLAS exam results from Spring 2025. (A code is required to sign in to the portal where the results are stored.)



**Kevin McAuliffe**

Kevin is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters