

Taylor Thespians, Amanda Vandiver and Wendi Reichstein



TAYLOR HIGH SCHOOL

Taylor Made for Success

Written by
Heather Lowrie



Walking into Taylor High School, you will see the school colors and mascot proudly and prominently displayed throughout the educational landscape. The blue and white immediately resonate with school spirit, while the Mustang shows a clear and powerful visual for strength, not just academically, but also in the overall success of each student who has the privilege of attending this magnificent school.

Building a Strong Foundation

The school's motto is the foundation for which this environment is built: striving for excellence, meeting the challenges of today, and preparing students for tomorrow. Along with initiative by students and staff members, Taylor's strong academic focus also reflects the work of community leaders, local businesses, and parents who are involved at every level.

The school's vision not only focuses on today, but also on the future of each student who walks the campus halls. "Taylor High School is a community service organization," says principal, David Kendler. "We are here to serve."

For the broad-based curriculum, there are seven 50-minute class periods, offering rigorous selections of math, social studies, English, and science, as well as foreign languages, computer science, business, technology, fine arts, speech, and journalism. The rewards of the school's strong academic program can be seen in its many recognitions, including being named one of *Texas Monthly's* best public schools in 2006, one of Children at Risk's top 10 Houston-area high schools in 2006 and 2007, and one of *Newsweek's* top 100 U.S. high schools in 2006.

Enriching Extracurricular Activities

Outside of the academic realm, a variety of extracurricular activities are offered, ensuring that every student can become part of the overall tapestry of the school. There is something for everyone, from sports to academic clubs and organizations. Taylor's strong history of success can be seen with state titles in everything from music solo and ensemble, academic decathlon, and tennis to boys swimming, girls soccer, and computer science.

Students can also stir up their competitive juices by getting involved in academic challenges, academic decathlon, UIL events, Destination ImagiNation, Comedy Sportz, and speech and debate. The Mustangs also produce four campus-wide publications, one of which is a video magazine called *The Blue Review*. The list of other organizations is endless and diverse, so that everyone can find a place to belong and an activity in which to thrive.

Preparing Students for Tomorrow

Taylor is a campus that is not only striving for excellence, but also achieving it. Teachers and staff members are meeting the challenges of today, while taking on the upcoming challenges of tomorrow. THS aims to prepare students for today, while also making sure they are ready to achieve in the future. A clear focus, outstanding staff members, and a true community of learners is what sets Taylor apart from other campuses in the area. **KM**

HEATHER LOWRIE is a freelance writer and author and loves encouraging others through her work. She is married to the love of her life and has two children.



The Taylor chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) meets regularly



Taylor is a TEA Recognized campus



The THS Expressions give several musical performances a year

TAYLOR FAST FACTS

LOCATION 20700 Kingsland Blvd.

PHONE NUMBER 281-237-3100

PRINCIPAL David Kendler

SCHOOL COLORS Blue and White

MASCOT Mustangs

SLOGAN Taylor Made for Success

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 2,702

STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBERS 225



Taylor student, Elizabeth Landry shows off her goat



Mustang choir members dress up in Renaissance garb to host their fundraising madrigal dinner every year



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