

FIND YOUR PLACE.



#1

SHAPE YOUR STORY.

The viewbook was created in collaboration with students, staff, alumni, and faculty.



HONOR SERVICE JUSTICE WISDOM

MISSION

The mission of Benjamin Franklin High School is to prepare students of high academic achievement to be successful in life.



Mr. Jarrell, CEO, Benjamin Franklin High School



Assistant Principals, Benjamin Franklin High School:
Mr. Weisman, Mr. Jackson, and Mrs. Morehouse

Dear Families,

Thank you for your interest in Benjamin Franklin High School. We are here to help you every step of the way through the admissions process.

Franklin is the only school in the city with an admissions process based solely on merit and is a special school for many reasons:

Here is what's true about our school community:

Ben Franklin is the #1 ranked public high school in Louisiana.

- Every year, our Falcons are accepted to Ivy League schools, top HBCUs, and the best colleges in Louisiana.
- We offer 29 AP courses, 17 research classes, and 11 Dual Enrollment classes, and we add new offerings every year to keep up with what students actually want to study.
- Our faculty and staff include National Board-certified teachers and counselors, licensed clinical social workers, multiple Louisiana Teachers of the Year, and a Milken Educator Award recipient.

Our student body reflects the full breadth of New Orleans.

- Franklin students come from every ZIP code in the city.
- Our students reflect the diversity of our city.
- That is not a coincidence. It is something we are proud of and work to protect.

You will find your people here.

- We have more than 80 student groups, covering everything from anime and K-pop to robotics, chess, soccer, poetry, drama, and golf.
- If you cannot find the club you are looking for, we encourage you to start one.

As you begin the admissions process here at Ben Franklin, **it's normal to be nervous**, but please know that we are here to help you find your place here.

Alex Jarrell
CEO, Benjamin Franklin High School





FRANKLIN FACTS

Founded in **1957**

9,259 graduates

Current enrollment is **1,127**

#1 Best Louisiana Public High School, **#13** Best U.S. Charter School –*Niche.com*

#1 school in Louisiana, **#24** U.S. charter school, and Top 100 U.S. High School, –*U.S. News & World Report*

Five-time **National Blue Ribbon** school

National Green Ribbon school

Member of the **National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools**

Average class size: **20 students**

YOUR PLACE IS WAITING. HERE'S HOW TO FIND IT.

We are so excited that you are considering Benjamin Franklin High School for your family's next big chapter. **Choosing a high school is a major milestone.** At Franklin, there is no lottery. If you meet our academic criteria, live in Orleans Parish, meet all enrollment deadlines, and select Franklin as your choice through the NOLA Public Schools enrollment process, **you are guaranteed a seat at Franklin.**

REGISTER ONLINE:

Head over to our admissions portal (bfhsla.schoolmint.com) to submit an online test registration form and select one of our Saturday admissions test dates.

TAKE THE ADMISSIONS TEST:

We offer one test per month from November through April.

Tip: Test Early! Students who test between November and January have the option to retake it one more time if needed three months later.

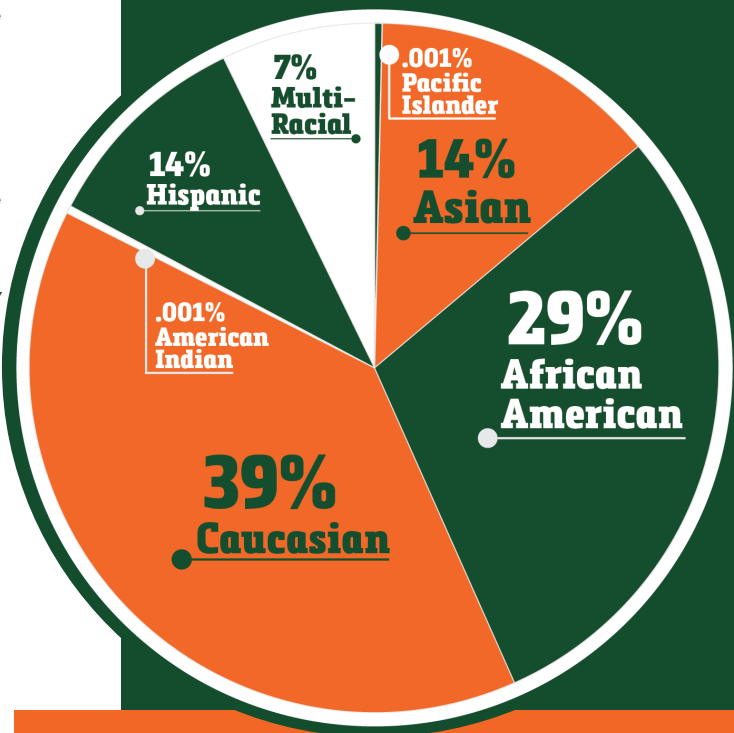
Once our team reviews and verifies your registration and documents, a confirmation email with your test date will be sent.

PROVIDE REPORT CARD:

Along with the test scores, our team will review your student's report card to determine academic eligibility.

Students who meet the academic criteria, reside in Orleans Parish, meet all admissions/enrollment deadlines, and select Franklin as their choice through the NOLA Public Schools enrollment process are guaranteed a seat at Franklin.

Eligibility decisions will be emailed following the NOLA Public Schools' main round results and will continue on a rolling basis. For a complete, step-by-step breakdown of this process, please refer to the detailed admissions packet included with this viewbook.



Our students come from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds

**SCAN FOR
ADMISSIONS PAGE**



Scan to see where our students come from



FALCON ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 perfect ACT scores of 36
- 40% of students scored a 30 or above on the ACT
- 94% of students scored a 3 or higher on AP exams
- Surpassed global averages in every AP category
- 19% earned a perfect 5 on AP exams
- 349 are AP Scholars (that's 42% of AP testers!)
- 99% of graduates are entering college
- 100+ college and university reps visit campus annually



PUSH YOUR STORY FURTHER.

29 AP Courses | 94% Pass Rate | AP Honor Roll Platinum School

Since 1957, Benjamin Franklin High School has educated the city's best and brightest and is ranked as one of the top public charter schools in the nation. The Franklin family fosters **a tradition of excellence in all of its students**, who go into the world fully prepared for life in higher education and beyond.

Through partnerships with LSU New Orleans, Louisiana State University, and Loyola University, Franklin students also have the opportunity to attend college classes in a concurrent or dual-enrollment program, earning high school and college credit simultaneously.

Franklin's success stems from an extraordinary and diverse learning environment, where students work, learn, and grow together, preparing to thrive at the nation's top colleges and beyond. The Franklin experience encourages expression in visual and media arts, vocal and instrumental music, and dramatic arts, as well as involvement in an abundant array of extracurricular activities.



STE[A]M PATHWAYS

In a joint effort with the LSU College of Engineering, Benjamin Franklin High School is proud to offer a Pre-Engineering STEM pathway designed to give our students a competitive edge in the modern world. By completing this specialized course series, students qualify for a STEM Diploma Seal, and several classes even offer the opportunity to earn college credit through LSU. Beyond exploring diverse engineering careers, students cultivate essential life skills, including collaborative teamwork, technical communication, and a strong professional work ethic, that prepare them for success in university and in their future careers.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Our World Languages Department provides a comprehensive curriculum in **French, Spanish, German, Latin, and Chinese**. While our Latin courses emphasize the development of reading, writing, and listening expertise, our modern language tracks expand these skills to include active verbal communication. For those seeking advanced rigor, we offer Advanced Placement opportunities across all five languages. Benjamin Franklin High School was named a German Center of Excellence in 2024 by the American Association of Teachers of German.

ACTFL-ALIGNED LANGUAGE PROGRESSION

Our French, German, and Spanish courses are built upon the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, a prestigious national standard utilized by top universities and language programs. Moving beyond traditional grammar-centric models, our ACTFL-aligned curriculum focuses on practical application in real-world scenarios. This approach ensures our Falcons are university-ready, prepared to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, and equipped with communication skills that translate to global success. 31% of the Class of 2026 earned the biliteracy seal on their diplomas.





FACULTY & STAFF



OUR
FACULTY & STAFF
ARE **ESSENTIAL**
TO THE **FRANKLIN**
EXPERIENCE.



Our faculty come from
throughout the U.S.
and the world.



Fifty of our teachers &
staff hold **master's**
degrees.



Twelve of our teacher &
staff hold **Ph.D.** or other
terminal degrees.



Ten of our teachers &
staff are **nationally**
board-certified.

YOUR STORY IS IN GOOD HANDS.



Franklin students thrive in academics, athletics, clubs, and competitions thanks to a strong support system of teachers, counselors, and staff, including the **Student Assistance Team**, **New Student Support Counseling**, and **Special Services** for students with disabilities or temporary medical conditions. Every student also has a dedicated **Academic Counselor** and **Mental Health Professional** who knows their name, their goals, and how to help them reach them.

Faculty and staff lead clubs spanning academics, arts, athletics, and community outreach, and their mentorship lasts well beyond graduation. Ten Franklin alumni are now on staff, four of them also Franklin parents.

- **Rachel Becker '99** has won the **German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award** and was named **Louisiana Journalism Education Association Adviser of the Year**.
- **Emalie Dunn** and **Carl LaCoste** are past winners of **New Schools for New Orleans' New Orleans Excellence in Teaching Awards**, or NOETA.
- **Chris Dier** was a **National Teacher of the Year Finalist** and a recipient of two **Fulbright scholarships**.
- **Chris Dier**, **Amanda Morehouse**, and **Kate Youngblood '09** have all been **Louisiana Teachers of the Year**.
- **Dr. Cecelia Gillam** was selected as a **U.S. PhET Fellow**, which honors individuals who are committed to making significant contributions to improving STEM education in the U.S.
- **Jana Kreutziger** is a **University of Chicago Outstanding Educator**.
- **Jay Weisman** won the **Milken Educator Award**, known as "the Oscars for teachers."



ACADEMICS



COURSE CATALOG

CORE COURSES

ENGLISH

English I H and G
English II H and G
English III H, G, and AP
African American Literature H
English IV H, G, and AP
•Existential Literature RES
•Shakespeare: Reclaiming the Bard RES

MATH

Algebra I H & G
Geometry H & G
Algebra II H & G
Pre-Calculus H, DE, AP
Probability & Statistics H & AP
Calculus H
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
Differential Equations & Linear Algebra

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education I
Health
Physical Education II

SCIENCE

Anatomy & Physiology
Physics H
Chemistry I H
Biology I H
Physics C: Mechanics AP
Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism AP
Biology II AP
Chemistry II AP
Environmental Science AP
Climate & Meteorology H

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography H
Human Geography AP
World History H & AP
U.S. History H & AP
Civics H
American Government/
Comparative Politics AP

WORLD LANGUAGES

French I H
French II H
French III H
French IV AP
French V DE
Spanish I H
Spanish II H
Spanish III H
Spanish IV AP
Spanish V DE
German I H
German II H
German III DE
German IV DE
German V DE
Latin I H
Latin II H
Latin III H
Latin IV AP
Chinese I H
Chinese II H
Chinese III H
Chinese IV AP

ELECTIVE COURSES

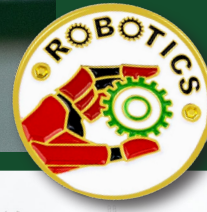
3D Computer-Aided Design
ACT/PSAT Test Prep
Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies
Art I-III
Art History AP
Band (Beg., Int., Adv. I and II) H
Computer Science A AP
Computer Science Principles AP
Classical Civilization Research H
Creative Writing I-III H
Digital Art: Imaging [STEM] &
Motion Graphics DE
Digital Storytelling H
Discrete Math Research H
Dramatic Literature & Playwriting
Engineering Design & Development
Ethics DE
Existential Literature Research H
Financial Lit. & Academic
Foundations
Global Competence
History of American Music Research H
Intro to Engineering H, DE
Intro to Computational Thinking H
Macro/Micro Economics AP

Mass Communications DE
Math Lab Research H
Media Arts I: Journalism
Media Arts I-III H
Music Theory I H, II AP
Orchestra I-IV H
Philosophy DE
Photography I DE
Physical Education III and IV
Psychology H, AP
Publications I, II
Robotics H
Shakespeare Research H
Sociology H
Speech I H
Student Council
Student Teaching Research H
Studio Art AP: 2D Design
Studio Art AP: 3D Design
Talented Arts Music I-IV
Talented Arts Theater I-IV
Talented Arts Visual Arts I-IV
Theater I, II
Video Game Design H
Women's Studies

All students must take Financial Literacy & Academic Foundations as well as English I (if entering as ninth graders), one art class, one research-intensive class, and three AP classes.

H = Honors G = Gifted AP = Advanced Placement DE = Dual Enrollment
(BOTH HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE CREDITS)





STUDENT LIFE

FIND YOUR PLACE IN A COMMUNITY LIKE NO OTHER.

Visitors notice it within minutes: our students come from everywhere, and you can feel it in how they treat each other. They tear sandwiches in half, give impromptu pep talks after a bad grade and organize their own study sessions before the physics test, making sure no one in the room gets left behind. **Success is not an individual quest at Franklin; rather it's a shared endeavor where our students cheer each other on.** With students from every ZIP code in New Orleans, as well as from other states and countries, that instinct to look out for one another isn't an accident. It's what happens when a community is genuinely diverse and everyone is determined to make room for everyone else.

That same openness shows up as drive. Our students chase down hard classes, hard questions, and hard goals, not because someone is watching, but because they've decided who they want to become. They are curious, funny, quirky, and ambitious in a hundred different directions, and they push each other forward as much as they push themselves.

At Ben Franklin, that range of experience, backgrounds, and ambition is what makes the place work. **Here, everyone belongs.**



SCAN FOR OUR
YOUTUBE
CHANNEL



GLOBAL CLASSROOM

Add another chapter
to your story with
GLOBAL CLASSROOM

We believe travel sharpens that same drive and curiosity. Through our **Global Classroom program**, students have traveled to Costa Rica, Colombia, France, Italy, Germany, Australia, and Japan, along with U.S. trips to New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and the Grand Canyon and other national parks. In the classroom and around the world, **our students learn there is no limit to where they can go.**

DRIVEN & SUPPORTIVE



CLUBS & COMMUNITY SERVICE

SHARE YOUR STORY YOUR WAY.

With **over 80 clubs and organizations**, our students develop leadership skills; compete in local, state, and national competitions; and travel outside the country. Club offerings are subject to change depending on student interest and participation. Students are **encouraged to organize new clubs** to enhance the school community.



AT FRANKLIN, GIVING BACK IS PART OF THE STORY.

Franklin students are deeply committed to their school, their community, and the world in which they live.

Many of our clubs and organizations such as Key Club, Green Society, Interact, Youth Rebuilding New Orleans, UNICEF, and Student Council turn this commitment into action. In the class of 2026, 25% of students earned a community service endorsement seal on their diploma. **Franklin students are making a difference.**

OUR CURRENT CLUBS

Black Culture Club	Humans of Ben Franklin
Urban Culture Step Team	Poetry Club
Film Appreciation Club	Student Movement Against Cancer
Poetry Out Loud	DECA: Leadership & Entrepreneurship
Krewe du Cypress	Marching Band
Yearbook	The Beauty Lab
VolleyNest	Chinese Culture and Language Club
Art & Art History Club	Mu Alpha Theta
Culinary Club	Franklin Fitness Club
Falcon TV	Muslim Students Association
GSA - Gender and Sexuality Alliance	Eco Club
Riverbend Review literary magazine	Tabletop Gaming Club
DEI Club	Taxidermy & Osteology Club
Economics Club	Wildlife Conservation Club
Quiz Bowl	Fishing Club
Civic Engagement Club	Create For Kids
Students Demand Action	Book Club
Academic Games	Girl Scout Club
Youth Rebuilding New Orleans	Arts & Crafts
Future Business Leaders of America	Key Club
Cheese Club	National Honor Society
Computer Science Club	Latin Club
Voodoo Voltage Robotics Team	Sailing Team
International Music Club	Asian Pacific Culture Club
Swing Dancing	Crochet For A Cause
UNICEF	The Wishing Crane Project
Speech and Debate	Cortex Connection
Cosmetics Club	Feminist Club
Gardening Club	Period Club
Serving Hope	Young Women for Social Justice
HOSA: Future Health Professionals	Code for Change
SWENext: Society of Women Engineers	Franklin Birding Club
Christ in Action	Model UN
Physics in Motion	Green Society
ChemClub	Active Minds
oSTEM: LGBTQ+ in STEM	FEED NOLA
Care Connection	Science Olympiad
Key Players Drama Club	Jewish Culture Club
Teatime Club	K-Pop Dance Club
Jazz Club	Sending Sunshine Club
Music Outreach for the Community	BFHS Choir
Food for Thought	German Club
Future Professionals in the Arts	



FINE ARTS



YOUR STORY DESERVES A SPOTLIGHT.

AWARD-WINNING ARTS, FROM THE STAGE TO THE STUDIO TO THE STEAM CENTER

MUSIC

The **Music Department** includes beginner through advanced-level Orchestra and Band, along with Music Theory I and AP Music Theory classes. Music counts for one of the necessary art credits at Franklin, but it is more than just an elective. Franklin music classes also double as a club/organization, and students participate in two concerts every year; numerous fundraisers; music festivals; competitions; and out-of-school engagements, such as weddings, anniversaries, retirement parties, and much more. Music is a great way to foster school spirit and ensure balance of work and artistic creative expression.

THEATER

Our **theater program** is expanding each year, and our newly renovated theater is now a worthy space for our remarkable students. The program has been recognized by the renowned **New Orleans Theatre Association**, which has underwritten numerous shows and funded upgrades to our auditorium. The Theater Department is more popular than ever with recent exciting shows like *Pride and Prejudice*, *Spelling Bee*, *Noises Off*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

Beyond the classroom, students use theater as a powerful tool to effect change. In 2024, 20 students from the Gender and Sexuality Alliance and the Key Players drama club worked with Broadway director Jimmy Maize to present a devised theater piece on the Capitol steps in Baton Rouge as a protest against proposed state legislation.

VISUAL ARTS

The **Visual Arts Department** offers a wide variety of courses in multiple disciplines including painting, photography, sculpture, printmaking, digital design, and other media arts.

Our students and faculty make a fantastic creative learning team! Our students' artwork has been recognized by numerous organizations including **Columbia Scholastic Press Association**, **Rau for Art Foundation**, **Jazz & Heritage Foundation**, **Selley Foundation**, and **The George Rodrigue Foundation**. Our outstanding Fine Arts faculty have participated in international and local exhibitions and have been published in national art journals.

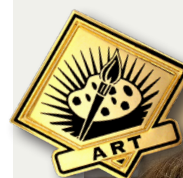
CREATIVE WRITING

Our excellent **creative writing program** helps students find their authentic voices and hone their writing skills while letting their imaginations run wild. From highly structured poetry such as sestinas to more experimental free verse or short stories, our writing students learn to take risks and push their creative limits. The program also has produced the nationally acclaimed **Riverbend Review**, an anthology of student writing and artwork honored by the **Columbia Scholastic Press Association** as one of the finest student publications in the country.



NOCCA PARTNERSHIP

Franklin is proud to partner with the **New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA)**, giving qualified students the opportunity for off-campus pre-professional arts training with intensive instruction in dance, media arts, music, theater arts, culinary arts, visual arts, and creative writing.





ATHLETICS

AWARD-WINNING SPORTS, YEAR AFTER YEAR.

The achievements of Franklin students are not limited to the classroom. Franklin has fielded numerous state championship athletic teams. Every year, athletes from Franklin celebrate their signing to college-level programs.

Franklin has 21 competitive sports teams, including soccer, football, cross-country, golf, volleyball, tennis, swimming, basketball, softball, baseball, and indoor/outdoor track and field.

FALL SPORTS

Boys' Cross Country, Boys' Swimming, Football, Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Swimming, Volleyball

WINTER SPORTS

Boys' Basketball, Boys' Indoor Track & Field, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Basketball, Girls' Indoor Track & Field, Girls' Soccer

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball, Boys' Golf, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Outdoor Track & Field, Girls' Flag Football, Girls' Golf, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Outdoor Track & Field, Softball

WHERE CHAMPIONS TRAIN

Franklin's new **Rose Athletic Field** brings state-of-the-art turf to a program with a long tradition of winning. Whether you're competing for a title or suiting up for the first time, this is where your athletic story gets written.



WRITE YOUR STORY ON THE FIELD.





SOME STORIES STAND OUT.

OURS HAS.

STUDENT HONORS

6

students scored **a perfect 36 on the ACT** last year

97

students were recognized by College Board as **National Merit Finalists, National Merit Commended Students, National African American Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars, and National Indigenous Scholars**

6

students earned **POSSE scholarships**

2

students earned **QuestBridge Scholarships**

5

students nominated for **U.S. Presidential Scholar awards**

1

student was a finalist for **Regional Louisiana Student of the Year**

ACHIEVEMENTS



- The Robotics Team qualified for the **World Championship in Houston**, where they competed against teams from around the globe.
- Four students placed at the **Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair**, and one advanced to the **International Science and Engineering Fair** after finishing second overall.
- Franklin's future health professionals earned **eight first-place finishes at the HOSA State Leadership Conference** in Baton Rouge, in categories including World Health, Anatomy & Physiology, General Chemistry, Medical Math, and Biomedical Equipment.



- Franklin's musicians won first place in both **String Orchestra and Full Band/Orchestra at Orlando Fest**, a national competition for student ensembles.
- Mu Alpha Theta, our mathematics honor society, excelled across every category at the **Louisiana State Mu Alpha Theta Tournament**.
- Franklin's Youth & Government Club sent its largest delegation yet to the **2025 Model Louisiana Legislature conference** in Baton Rouge and helped pass several bills.
- Falcons represented Franklin on national and international stages this year, from the **Science Olympiad National Competition** in Los Angeles and the **National Speech & Debate Competition** in Chicago, to the **Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention** in New York City, the **Louisiana Youth Seminar** at LSU, and the **German American Partnership Program exchange** in Berlin.
- Three students placed in the top three at Tulane University's **Innovation Young Entrepreneurs Academy Pitch Competition**.
- One student won first place in the **Rau for Art Scholarship Competition**.
- Beverly Hills Polo Club, a student band made up of five members of the Class of 2026, performed at **Jazz Fest** for the second year in a row.
- One student earned a bronze medal in contemporary dance at the **regional NAACP ACT-SO competition** and was selected for a second summer of training with the **Joffrey Ballet** in New York City.



**"DREAMS
MEAN
WORK"**

—Paulo Coelho



ATHLETICS

- **8 student-athletes** signed to compete at the **collegiate** level.
- Baseball had 1 player named to the **All-District Team**
- Boys Basketball had 2 players named to the **All-District Team**.
- Boys Soccer finished **3rd in district** and advanced to the **Regional Round** of the playoffs; 6 players earned **All-District honors** (2 first team, 2 second team, 2 third team), 1 earned **All-State**, and 1 earned **All-Metro**.
- Boys Tennis sent 8 players to the **State Tennis Tournament**, and the Line 1 doubles team won **State runner-up** and earned a spot on the **All-Metro team**.
- Cross Country had the most students ever **qualify for state**, with 1 girl finishing in the **top 16**.
- Flag Football made the **playoffs** and finished in the **top 4**.
- Girls Basketball finished **2nd in district** and advanced to the **Bi-District Round of the state playoffs**, with 2 players named to the **All-District Team**.
- Girls Soccer won **1st place in district** and advanced to the **state semifinal**; 5 players earned **All-District** first team honors, including the **district MVP** and **Defensive Player of the Year**, with 4 more on second team **all district** and 3 receiving **honorable mention**. Four players earned first team **All-State** honors, and 2 earned **Freshman All-State**.
- Girls Tennis sent 2 players to the **State Tennis Tournament**, and the Line 1 singles player won **State runner-up** and earned a spot on the **All-Metro team**.
- Softball finished **2nd in district** and advanced to the Bi-District Round of the **state playoffs**, with 2 players named to the **All-District Team**.
- Swim sent 8 girls and 11 boys to the **2025 LHSA Division II State Championship**, where the girls' 200 Medley Relay team won **gold** and **two individual gold medals** were earned in the 200 IM and 100 backstroke. Both the girls' and boys' 400 free relay teams won **silver**. The girls finished 3rd and the boys finished 4th overall in District II, and 1 girl and 1 boy were named to the **All-Metro Team**.
- Track advanced both the girls' and boys' teams to **regionals**, with 1 athlete qualifying for **state**.
- Volleyball made it to the **second round of playoffs**, with 5 players named to the **All-District Team** and 1 named to the **All-Metro Team**.



OUR SOARING FALCONS



JA'RIAH MATTHEWS '27

Ja'Riah Matthews found his rhythm in Franklin's drumline, trading a lifelong trumpet for cymbals and snare. The discipline runs deep: daily practice and the grit he showed pushing through last year's hot, exhausting Mardi Gras parade with his section. That same drive is fueling his goal of becoming a cardiologist. "At Franklin, I love how no matter who you are there is a space for you," he says.



LEENA JAIN '27

Leena Jain leads Chemistry Companions, scheduling tutors and teaching students herself, work that reflects a broader passion for helping others. Leena is a member of the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council, UNICEF Club, and Tennis Team. She says that when she first started at Franklin she was nervous. "However, after just the first day, I knew I had found my place," she says. Franklin, Leena reflects, "pushed me to be the best version of myself."



RILEY RHODES '27

Riley Rhodes serves as Student Council President, the liaison between administration and the student body, ensuring every student's voice is heard. She plans to pursue biology and political science on the pre-med track, hoping to become a physician who advocates for systemic changes. "Franklin has shown me the importance of interdisciplinary studies and that there is not one linear path to success. Franklin has helped me find my voice," she says.

OUR AMAZING ALUMNI

Barry Ashe '74: Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of LA

David "Dee-1" Augustine '03: Rapper

Gilda Barabino '74: President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Jalila Jefferson-Bullock '93: Representative, District 91: 2003-2007

Lolis Eric Elie '81: Former columnist at *The Times-Picayune*, TV writer for *Treme* and *Hell on Wheels*, author, award-winning documentary filmmaker

Ted Frank '87: Director of the AEI Legal Center for the Public Interest

Fri Forjindam '98: Co-owner of Mycotoo: theme park, museum and experience designer

Daniel Hammer '96: President of the Historic New Orleans Collection

Shaneika Dabney-Henderson '96: Vice President of Production for the Saints and Pelicans

Anya Kamenetz '98: Freelance writer and columnist, author of *Generation Debt*

Sally Bronston Katz '09: Coordinating Producer, *Meet the Press* at NBC News

David Kinch '79: Nationally acclaimed chef and former owner of Manresa restaurant

Oscar Liu '17: Launched Vita Innovations - developed VitalMask, a smart respiratory mask for monitoring patient vitals

Delfeayo Marsalis '83: Jazz trombonist

Wynton Marsalis '79: Nine-time Grammy Award-winning musician

James Nolan '65: Poet, fiction writer, essayist, and translator

Wendell Pierce '81: Actor, star of the HBO dramas *The Wire* and *Treme*

Wade Rathke '66: Co-founder of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

Cedric Richmond '91: Senior advisor to the president and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement in the Biden administration; former U.S. Representative, Louisiana's 2nd district: 2011-2021

Virginia Saussy '84: Co-founder of Muses Mardi Gras krewe

Sonny Schneidau '77: Co-founder of Tipitina's and talent manager at House of Blues

Clint Smith '06: Author and poet, known for his work in education, incarceration, and inequality

Ben Springgate '90: Chief Health Officer and medical adviser to NOLA Public Schools

Richard Talens '04: Entrepreneur, celebrity trainer, and co-founder of Fitocracy

Tania Tetlow '88: Current president of Fordham University and past president of Loyola University New Orleans

Rosie Tran '02: Stand-up comedian, actress, model, and podcast host

Beth Arroyo Utterback '79: General Manager of WWOZ-FM New Orleans

Kyle Widmer '98: Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care system

Walter Williams '71: *Saturday Night Live* writer, creator of Mr. Bill

Phillip Youmans '18: Won Best Director at the 2019 Tribeca Film Festival



FRI FORJINDAM '98



DANIEL HAMMER '96



OSCAR LIU '17



WENDELL PIERCE '81



**BETH ARROYO
UTTERBACK '79**

OUR STORY

BEGAN IN 1957.



1957

Benjamin Franklin High School **opens** in the former Carrollton Courthouse and our story begins.



1971

Ben Franklin adds a **ninth grade**

1963

Ben Franklin becomes the **first public high school** in the city to **desegregate**



1960

The **first class** of Franklin Falcons graduates



1990

Ben Franklin **moves across town** to its current location on the UNO campus





2005

Ben Franklin's campus sustains extensive damage in **Hurricane Katrina**; faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni work together to clean and restore the facility



2006

Ben Franklin High School becomes a **charter school** and is the first to reopen after the storm



2027

YOUR story starts
the day you join us.



2021

Ben Franklin's campus is named in honor of NASA trailblazer **Katherine Johnson**

FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM



YOURS BEGINS NOW.

TO APPLY:

BFHSLA.ORG/ADMISSIONS

504.286.2610 | APPLY@BFHSLA.ORG

ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR : GRISELLE SUAZO



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