

Nov. 5, 2026

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Buffaloes thrive under first-year, first-time head coach



The Baker High School Football Team is having a Cinderella season. Last year, the team only won three games. This year, the Buffaloes clinched the District 6-3A Championship for the first time in 20 years winning eight games so far and they're headed to the playoffs.

All of this under the leadership of first-time and first-year Head Coach Demetric Rogers.



“It’s been a great journey to take the program from where it was to making it into a household name again and reminding everyone of the great history Baker once had,” said Coach Rogers. “We want everyone to know we’re still here.”

Rogers was an assistant football coach for 11 years before coming to Baker. He previously served as the Freshman Head Coach, Quarterback Coach, and Outside Linebacker Coach at Madison Prep Academy where he helped lead the team to the state quarterfinals in 2025 and the semifinals and district title in 2024.

“I’ve always wanted to be a head coach. When I was in elementary school I always acted like I was the coach," Rogers said. "I’m living proof that dreams do come true.”

Coach Rogers attributes the Buffaloes success to hard work, discipline, and strong buy-in.

“It’s all about being honest and being yourself,” Coach Rogers said. “If I’m not doing what I’m supposed to be doing then how can I expect my assistant coaches to do what they’re supposed to do and the players to show up for a 4:45 a.m. practice? Everybody has to be a role model for the next generation and it all starts with a plan. I told them in order to win we have to put in the work.”

Gary Duhe, Athletic Director for Helix Community Schools, says he couldn’t be prouder.

“During the interview process, I saw a quality that separated him from the other candidates,” Duhe said.“He was more concerned about the total athlete, not just about winning and he had a plan. I knew that success would come, but I didn’t expect it to happen so quickly. He’s brought the pride back to our community.”

Indeed, but the job isn’t finished yet. The team has one more regular season game tonight at 6 p.m. then they’re headed to the playoffs. It's been a long time coming. Congratulations Buffs! We're BuffaloProud!

You can purchase **tickets here.**

Pinkest School Award



For the second year in a row, Helix AI & Medical Academy (HAIM) has received the Pinkest School Award from Opelousas General Health System.

Each year, Opelousas General invites local schools and businesses to Paint the Town Pink in honor of breast cancer awareness. The Pinkest School Award is given to a business or school in St. Landry Parish which has the best decorations during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This year's theme was "Aloha to the Cure."

Helix AI went all out. Everyone dressed in luau attire and cheered on the survivors. The cheerleaders created an original cheer and the fifth grade gifted and talented students created a tribute video. Last year, HAIM was also honored with this prestigious award.

"Thank you Opelousas General for recognizing us," said Jennifer Gordon, Founding Principal for Helix AI and Chief Academic officer for the Acadiana Region for Helix Community Schools. "Our students and staff love this event."

"Congratulations to Ms. Gordon and her entire team for their leadership and commitment to the community," said Preston Castille, President and CEO of Helix Community Schools. "We're proud of you!"

Join us for Helix Expo, Nov. 7



Helix Community Schools will bring its entire network together for an exciting day of exploration, entertainment and community engagement during the Helix Expo on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Helix Aviation Academy, 4400 Airpark Blvd., in Baton Rouge.

The free, family-friendly event will showcase the innovative educational programs, unique learning experiences and opportunities available throughout the Helix network. The expo will provide current families with an opportunity to explore academic programs, student resources and educational pathways across Helix schools. Prospective families will have a chance to discover what makes Helix unique, meet school leaders and staff, and learn how the network is preparing students for success in the classroom, college, careers and beyond.

In addition to school exhibits and program demonstrations, the expo will feature community organizations sharing valuable resources and services for families, student performances, children's activities and a play area. Attendees will also be treated to free jambalaya.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our schools, families and community partners together, while showcasing the exciting things happening throughout the Helix network,” said Preston Castille, President and CEO of Helix Community Schools. “As we continue to expand our schools and develop innovative programs, our focus remains on creating more opportunities for students and better serving our families. We want everyone to come out, experience the Helix community and see firsthand what makes our schools special.”

Families, community members and anyone interested in learning more about Helix Community Schools are encouraged to attend.





We know great things are happening at Helix so please share your success stories, student achievements, innovative classroom projects and community involvement. Email your story ideas **here.**
Your idea could be our next lead story! Please send pictures too.

About Helix Community Schools

Helix Community Schools is a homegrown charter school network headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana area which includes Helix

Mentorship & Maritime Academy, Helix College & Career Academy, and Helix Aviation Academy. In Baker, Helix is partnering with the City of Baker School System to manage and operate Baker High School and Park Ridge Achievement Academy, both Helix Fintech & Performing Arts Academies. Helix opened Helix AI & Medical Academy in Opelousas, Louisiana, in August 2025, and is scheduled to open Helix Agriculture & Energy Academy there in 2027. At Helix, we are committed to exposing students to innovative college and career pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM) and the law. For more information, visit helixcommunityschools.org.

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