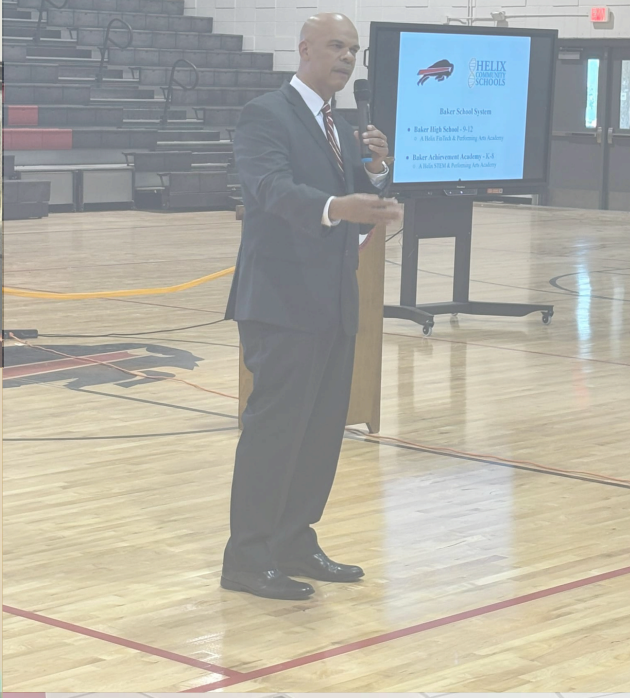




2024-2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This has been a remarkable year for Helix Community Schools! We expanded our schools in Baton Rouge, Baker, and Opelousas, doubling the number of facilities in our network and significantly increasing our program offerings and staffing.

As part of the expansion, we opened a brand new, K-5 school in Opelousas - Helix AI & Medical Academy- with more than 500 students. It is the first new school in St. Landry Parish in decades. We partnered with the City of Baker School System, adding Baker High School and Park Ridge Achievement Academy to the Helix family and we launched a new two-year, community college program - Helix College & Career Academy - that offers a free education to Helix graduates. It's the first program of its kind in Louisiana.

Helix now offers classes for students in pre-K through the 14th grade. Indeed, this was a historic year.

We also shifted our focus to maritime, combining Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy and Helix Legal Academy into one - Helix Mentorship & Maritime Academy - serving students in grades 6-12.

All of these changes have allowed us to serve even more students and make an even bigger impact in the community. I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication of our team because none of this would be possible without them. Their commitment to excellence is unwavering.

I am immensely thankful to our students, parents, and families for their support. It means the world to us. And I am especially thankful to our partners including the City of Baker School Board and the St. Landry Parish School Board for trusting us with your most valuable assets. We don't take this opportunity for granted.

We're so excited about the future possibilities. Together, we are making a difference.

Preston Castille, Jr.
President & CEO
Helix Community Schools

A record-breaking year.

Doubled the number of schools in the network from three to six

Opened Helix AI & Medical Academy in Opelousas with more than 500 students in grades K-5

Partnered with the City of Baker School System, adding Baker High School and Park Ridge Achievement Academy to the Helix family

The merger and expansion of Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy and Helix Legal Academy to create Helix Mentorship & Maritime Academy, which serves grades 6-12

Launched Helix Aviation Academy High School and Elementary School

Launched Helix College & Career Academy



HELIX
AI & MEDICAL
ACADEMY

Historic ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking ceremony

On a beautiful day in July 2025, students, families, friends, faculty and staff, elected officials, and other community leaders gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Helix AI & Medical Academy in Opelousas.

"This is a great day for our Helix family and the community," said Preston Castille, President and CEO of Helix Community Schools. "This school will offer our students cutting-edge technology and help prepare them for jobs of the future."

**"This is a great day
for our Helix family
and the
community."**

**Preston Castille,
President & CEO**

Helix AI & Medical is a public charter school which is free and open to all students. The 42,000 square foot facility will offer classes for 600 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. It is a partnership with St. Landry Parish School Board and the first newly-built school in the parish in decades.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by local, state and national leaders including U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields and Louisiana Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley.

Helix AI & Medical offers classes for up to 600 students in a state-of-the-art 42,000 square-foot facility.



DOUBLING OUR FOOTPRINT: HELIX COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERS WITH CITY OF BAKER SCHOOL SYSTEM



In April 2025, Helix Community Schools partnered with the City of Baker School System to manage and operate Baker High School and Park Ridge Achievement Academy—transforming them into Fintech and Performing Arts Academies.

Park Ridge now serves Pre-K through 8th grade. Baker High School continues to serve grades 9-12. Together, they prepare students for careers in financial technology—a multi-billion dollar industry powering apps like CashApp and PayPal—while strengthening programs in band, choir, theater, and fine arts.

The "Come Home to Baker" campaign invited families to return to their community schools, confident their children would receive a world-class education close to home.



It was a historic occasion as the City of Baker School Board unanimously approved the Helix-Baker partnership in April 2025 as members of the Helix team looked on.



GROWTH IN THE NETWORK



Charita Sellers
Chief Academic Officer
Baton Rouge Region



Charita Sellers, who formerly served as the Executive Director and Founding Principal of Helix Aviation Academy, was named Chief Academic Officer for the Baton Rouge Region for Helix Community Schools.



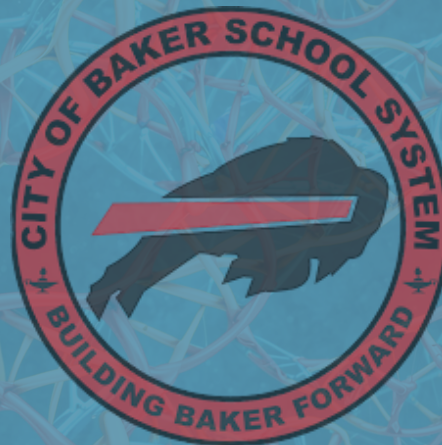
Sandra Douglas
Academic Consultant



Sandra Douglas, who formerly served as the Chief Academic Officer for Geo Academies, was named an Academic Consultant for Helix Community Schools.



**INNOVATION IS
IN
OUR DNA.**





Killey Murphy was named Principal of Park Ridge Achievement Academy. Murphy is a dedicated educator and dynamic leader with more than 20 years of instructional experience spanning grades three through eight. She previously served as the Founding Academic Dean, Assistant Principal and Principal of Helix Aviation Academy Middle School. Murphy revamped the curriculum at Park Ridge Achievement Academy and brought in new faculty and staff who shares a commitment to the success and well-being of every child.

Killey Murphy
Principal
Park Ridge Achievement Academy



BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

A HELIX FINTECH & PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

“Culture is one of the most important aspects of school, so making sure that everything is in place and that place runs like a well-oiled machine is my mission.”



Alisa Welsh was named Interim Principal of Baker High School (BHS) and Director of Academic Achievement for Helix Community Schools. She is a highly- accomplished educator who served as the Founding Principal of Madison Preparatory Academy in Baton Rouge for 16 years before joining Helix. Her major focus was changing the culture.

Alisa Welsh

Director of Academic Achievement
Interim Principal - Baker High School





Helix Community Schools refined Helix Mentorship Academy's STEAM focus to include maritime studies and better align the new curricular focus, changing the school's name to Helix Mentorship & Maritime Academy (HMMA).

The new focus will help create multiple college and career pathways for our students. The multi-billion dollar maritime industry is the source of a huge number of jobs and careers. We have tons of maritime resources practically in our backyard. Mentorship is only four blocks away from the Mississippi River, which connects Baton Rouge to the entire world and is a major part of the international maritime industry. We can literally see the Port of Greater Baton Rouge from our classrooms. Mentorship is also only about a mile away from the Baton Rouge Water Campus, the Water Institute, and the LSU Center for River Studies and Louisiana is known as Sportsman's Paradise in large part because of our rich waterways throughout the state and the Gulf of America. ***Our sharks belong in the water!!***



We've already started collaborating with maritime industry partners and connecting with port executives, maritime businesses and universities engaged in maritime studies. Some of our students attended the We Work the Waterways Industry Interaction Day, a national education outreach program to expose students to the importance of our nation's waterways and the various careers in the maritime, shipping and logistics industry. And we've started a **Yacht Club** so students can get even more exposure to boating and shipping and debuted our Tiny Fleet in the Krewe of Oshun parade. Our fleet of tiny boats will be on display at Mentorship so students can get familiar with them. We also started a new partnership with the YMCA to help more of our students learn to swim. Safety will always be our top priority.



Dr. Calvin Nicholas was named Executive Director and Principal of Helix Mentorship and Maritime Academy. Dr. Nicholas has served in top leadership roles in K-12, including most recently as the Principal of East Iberville Elementary & High School.

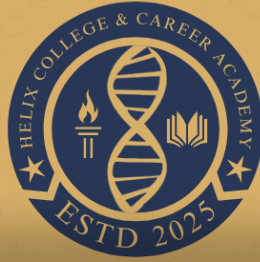
With more than 30 years of experience in the educational sector, he has made a substantial impact as a coach, mentor, and educator. He has devoted his career to education and leadership.

Dr. Calvin Nicholas
Executive Director and Principal



HELIX

COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY



Helix College & Career Academy (HCCA) was launched in 2025. It is a two-year community college that will help our graduates transition from high school to college.

HCCA offers 2025 Helix Mentorship Academy students an opportunity to continue to grades 13 and 14 as part of Helix Community Schools and earn an associate degree or technical degree on us. The tuition is free. Students started attending classes at Baton Rouge Community College in the fall of 2025.

Students can take the academic track or the career track to obtain an associate degree in criminal justice, business arts, or humanities. Or they can get certified in welding, electrical, pipefitting, carpentry, and HVAC.

The launch of our new college and career academy marked a significant milestone in our commitment to providing diverse and innovative educational opportunities for students seeking alternative pathways. *We are now a Pre-K through 14th grade network!*



Dr. Angela Domingue
Founding Dean
Helix College & Career Academy

Dr. Angela Domingue, formerly Executive Director and Principal of Helix Mentorship Academy, was named the Founding Dean of Helix College & Career Academy.

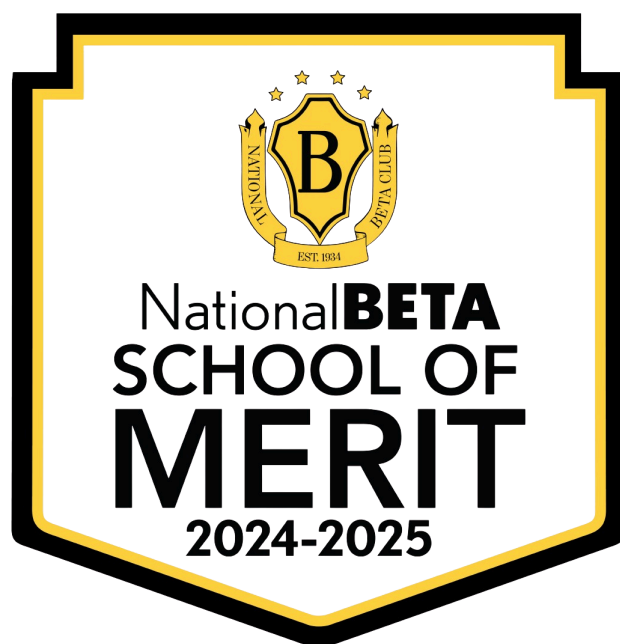


Nequoia Elsey
Founding Director of Student Life
Helix College & Career Academy

Nequoia Elsey, formerly Dean of Teaching and Learning at Helix Mentorship Academy, was named Founding Director of Student Life of Helix College & Career Academy.



Helix Legal Academy is located next door to Helix Mentorship & Maritime Academy (HMMA), and became a part of HMMA in 2025. HMMA will now serve students in grades 6-12.



National Beta School of Merit

Helix Legal Academy was named a 2024–2025 National Beta School of Merit by the National Beta Club. This prestigious recognition celebrates Helix Legal Academy's outstanding commitment to academic achievement, character, leadership, and service — core pillars of the National Beta Club mission.

The Beta Club, which has 60 members in grades 6-8, was founded in 2023. Last year, club members participated in a number of projects to give back to the community including volunteering at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, passing out turkeys to families in need during Thanksgiving and partnering with service organizations to hand out toys during Christmas to kids in the community. They also provided tutoring sessions to help classmates during the year.





HELIX

AVIATION ACADEMY



At Helix Aviation Academy, we believe that every student has the potential to soar to new heights academically and personally. With strong family support, consistent effort, and high expectations, our students continue to thrive. In 2024, Aviation expanded its elementary and high school program to offer kindergarten, first and ninth grade. The school now offers classes for students in kindergarten, first and sixth through ninth grade. The expansion is part of our mission to grow into a K-12 program.



SECOND CHANCES, FIRST-CLASS SUPPORT

HOW HELIX KEEPS STUDENTS ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS

Helix established a Harmony and Justice Program at Helix Aviation Academy in 2025 to help students who are suspended to stay on track academically and return to their home school ready to succeed.

The goal is not to punish the students, but help them grow, take responsibility, and make better choices. It is designed to cater to the unique behavioral and academic requirements of children and adolescents who may not find adequate support in a traditional school setting.



Marvin Mercer
Director of Harmony and Justice

Marvin Mercer, an accomplished educator with over 12 years of teaching experience, was named Director of Harmony and Justice for Helix Community Schools. His commitment to ongoing professional development has driven numerous initiatives enhancing instructional practices and student engagement.

As Director of Harmony and Justice at Helix Aviation Academy, Mercer oversees the 'turnaround initiative,' empowering students with a second chance.

Free Swimming Lessons

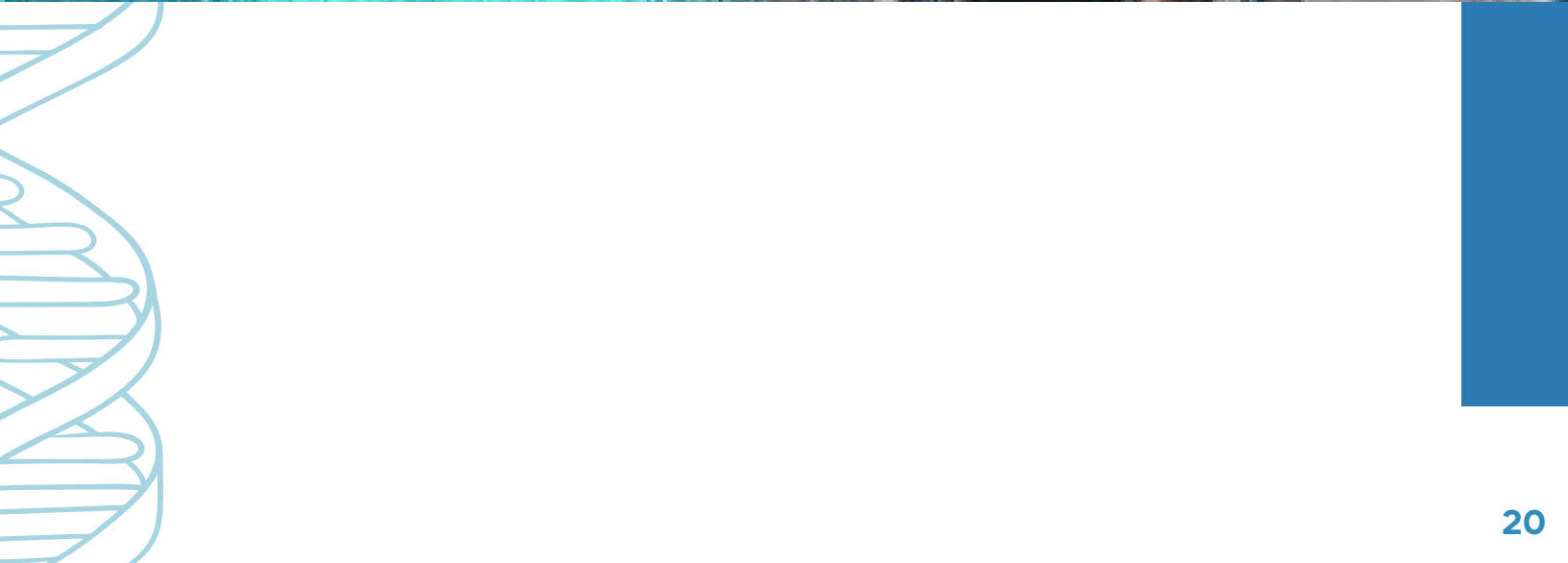


Helix partnered with the Exxonmobil YMCA to offer free swimming lessons and water safety tips to our students and families. The program is designed to equip kids with basic skills to ensure their safety and the safety of others.



Students took water safety lessons prior to participating in the swimming lessons.







The Project CEO presentation took place at the City Club with Aaron Fields, Joshua Gary, (3rd from left) the Executive Assistant Manager at the City Club of Baton Rouge, CWSP Manager Cary Payton (left) and CWSP Director Angelica Collins.

Aaron Fields, an 11th grader at Helix Mentorship Academy, made a presentation to his supervisor at the City Club of Baton Rouge. He worked at the City Club as part of Helix's Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP). Fields along with other junior and seniors who participate in the program create and present end-of-the-year presentations, which are called "Project CEO", to the leadership team and CWSP leaders to share their experiences and lessons learned along the way. In 2024-2025, about 62 students participated in the Corporate Work Study Program in grades 10-12. The program gives them an opportunity to gain invaluable on-the-job training and helps employers meet the demands of today's workforce. They work one day a week for up to six hours at various companies in the Baton Rouge Area, including American Red Cross and Our Lady of the Lake. Sponsors pay a fee to help cover operational expenses and Helix provides lunch and transportation.

PROJECT CEO

“My favorite part of the job was getting to meet famous people like Gov. Jeff Landry and former Gov. John Bel Edwards when they came for lunch,” Fields said. “I never met the governor before.”

Aaron Fields, CWSP Student

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ATHLETICS

Helix Community Schools is committed to having competitive athletic programs across our system. Helix Mentorship and Maritime Academy along with Baker High School are proud members of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) and field teams in football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track and cross country, soccer, softball, baseball, golf, and bowling. Helix Aviation Academy and Park Ridge Achievement Academy compete in the various middle school leagues across the Baton Rouge area in football, flag football, volleyball, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys track, softball and baseball. Helix Aviation has started the process of joining the LHSAA on the high school level and should be admitted in the next few years. Helix AI & Medical Academy, our newest school which is located in Opelousas in St. Landry Parish, will be adding an elementary athletic program in the coming years.

While all of our athletic programs are committed to build championship programs, we believe in providing all of our students an invaluable opportunity to develop life long skills such as teamwork, leadership, and how to handle pressure situations.





THE ARTS

Helix Mentorship & Maritime Academy students performed the iconic musical “The Wiz” at Southern University’s Frank Hayden Theater. It was the school’s first major production which was produced by Andrea Richardson, Director of Arts for Helix Community Schools. The students put on a powerful performance on what was the 50th anniversary of The Wiz on Broadway, introducing the story to a whole new generation.





Thank You!

Thank you to our community partners and supporters who are essential in helping us educate our students and families. We are so grateful for your continued support. We couldn't do this without you!

If you'd like to become a partner or donate to Helix, email us at development@helixcommunityschools.org. For more information, go to our website at helixcommunityschools.org.



