



**Dardanelle School District**  
**SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Act 35 of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of 2003 and Act 2152 of 2005 requires that each school district in the state report annually to the district's patrons. The following report describes the recent progress of the Dardanelle School District in its accomplishment of stated goals and objectives.

The Dardanelle School District remains in compliance with all state mandated standards of performance and operation and retains full accreditation through the Arkansas Department of Education. There are four central goals targeted for improvement. They are:

1. To upgrade and enhance the use of technology
2. To improve student achievement
3. To vertically align the district-wide curriculum (with emphasis on writing in each subject area)
4. To meet the needs of an increasingly diverse school population.

**Facilities:** Numerous capital outlay projects have been completed in the past few years improving the effectiveness and appearance of all the campuses. Most recently, major renovations at the existing Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools were completed to allow for new grade configurations and upgrades. The Intermediate School was renovated and houses grades 4 & 5. Middle School houses grades 6, 7, & 8. Locker rooms and restrooms were constructed at the existing middle school/physical education building along with other major upgrades. The high school campus was expanded to include the former middle school facilities. The high school gym and football field received major lighting upgrades to improve energy efficiency and visibility. Thanks to the \$200,000 Tyson Grant, major upgrades have been made to the track and stadium. A 6.5 mill increase was approved in September 2011. The new Primary School for grades K-3 was completed during the 2012-2013 school year and opened the first day of school on August 19, 2013. The district administration office was relocated to 102 South Front Street after receiving the building from Centennial Bank. The facility was renovated and was occupied early June 2016. A districtwide safety and crisis plan has been implemented and we are constantly taking strides to keep our schools healthy and accident free. The EPA recently monitored us with no friable asbestos detected. The remaining asbestos containing materials are controlled through our management plan. The district received a \$675,000 FEMA Grant to fund safe rooms at the high school campus. Completion date is set for January 2018.

**School Food Service:** A food service management company (Chartwells) has been hired and is in its fourth year of operation to provide school dining and nutrition services. We will continue to see our nutrition program offering better quality and greater variety as well as more nutritious meals. Already witnessed, is an increased participation and improved morale among students and staff. This will enhance the academic and co-curricular programs of the district.

**Technology:** All buildings are wired and each classroom connected to the internet. The district's network infrastructure is equipped with HP ProCurve switches and one Extreme Networks core switch, with a 1Gigabit backbone. We have added a 10 Gigabit fiber WAN which links all school district sites together. This WAN has access to 500MB of Internet bandwidth provided by the state. An Extreme Networks managed wireless system is in place at each school. We added a new computer lab to the Intermediate School and updated an existing lab at the High School. We have 16 (25 station) computer labs throughout the district and several mobile laptop labs have been put

in place, as well as approximately 300 iPads which are being heavily utilized throughout the district. We've added several mobile Chromebook labs throughout the district, bringing us to about 1700 Chromebooks district-wide. This amounts to hundreds of devices added to accommodate ACT Aspire testing. All classrooms are equipped with a teacher computer, ceiling mounted projector and document camera. All classrooms in middle, intermediate, and primary schools are equipped with sound systems and MimioTeach interactive boards. We have an iBoss web content filter system for the entire district and utilize Edlio web hosting/content management system for the district. We entered our 4th year of eSchool for student management and gradebook, and underwent an eSchool upgrade. Our labs and libraries K-12 are using the current educational software: Imagine Learning, Compass Learning, Rosetta Stone, and Renaissance Learning. Odyssey software is currently in our alternative learning classroom to assist in credit recovery. We utilize Blackboard Connect messaging system for mass communication to parents and staff. Rave Panic Button was implemented district wide; an app system which alerts emergency responders and staff when emergencies occur. Imagine Learning software is used with the ESL students at the primary and intermediate school. We are continuously in the process of making needed repairs and updating classroom computers and our computer labs district wide.

**Athletic Expenditures:** According to Arkansas Annotated 6-20-2003 and the Rules Governing Athletic Revenues and Expenditures for Public School Districts, Section 6.00 mandates districts to provide a prior year athletic expenditure report as well as a current year budget. The total expenditures including equipment, salaries, facilities, utilities, travel, insurance, etc. for 2016-2017 were \$674,170.94 with \$680,537.00 budgeted for 2017-2018.

**Curriculum:** The major focuses of curriculum center around promoting the achievement of each student. Emphasis is continuing on more instructional time in math and literacy. New curriculum is being utilized to facilitate the mastery of concepts tested on the ACT Aspire-the new state mandated assessment. Expectations are that instruction ensures that students are working and achieving at grade level or above with an emphasis on a higher level of accountability on the part of each school. The focus of staff development is on the achievement of math, literacy, and technology using the assets of our local staff, the resources of Arch Ford Educational Cooperative, and ADE resources. Adhering to state standards and incorporating strategies to address these standards, are some of the major focuses of our staff. Professional development is ongoing and targets the changes in curriculum and effective teaching strategies that are aligned with ACT Aspire assessments.

**Student Achievement:** Student achievement continues to be of top priority. Students taking the ACT scored above the state and national average. Dardanelle High School continues to be listed in the U.S. World Report's Nation's Best High Schools. The high school was selected by the National Research Organization as one of the Highest Performing Schools and selected as an Exemplary Progress School by ACT. The high school has also been named one of America's Best High Schools by NICHE, billed as the largest web operation to review stats on public high schools from scores, to demographics, to parent reviews. We are proud of our records and continue to work toward excellence. Significant improvements in the ACT Aspire results were noted at all schools within the district. While test scores in themselves do not offer an accurate reflection of the school's performance, these results may reveal strengths and areas of concern within an instructional program when observed over a time.

**State and Federal programs** (Title I, IIA, III, NSLA, Acts 35 and 59) at the Dardanelle School District are strongly committed to ensuring that all students achieve to their maximum potential with additional assistance in mathematics and literacy. The priority goal is to have every student achieving on grade level or above as soon as possible. There are several teachers and staff in our district employed from these funds to extend the achievement of our students. We have two

instructional supervisors, four computer lab managers, three study skills teachers, five special reading/math teachers, four ELL teachers, three school nurses, federal programs administrator and assistant, and six high school teachers who work each day with remediation. In addition, to support teaching and learning, there is a math instructional facilitator that works district-wide to support teaching and learning in all mathematics classrooms. The gifted and talented program at Dardanelle School District is comprised of enrichment at the primary, research-based project oriented pullout at the intermediate, enrichment/quiz bowl/chess/mentor at middle school, and enrichment/quiz bowl/AP classes/mentor at the high school level. Parents of students in the Dardanelle School District are encouraged to visit the building-level parent centers to view the many parental resource materials available for home or to use in the Center. School counselors are available to assist parents before and after school or as needed.

**English Language Learner (ELL) program:** The language minority student population continues to climb from 43 students in 1996-1997 to approximately 520 for 2017-2018. Because of a large influx of language minority students into kindergarten, we expect that number to be even larger at our count for the ADE. The English Language Learner (ELL) program in the Dardanelle School District functions well and meets the needs of all students while making the best use of all staff. Teachers work cooperatively to ensure that this population is served adequately.

**ACSIP** (Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plans) for the district and each school have been developed with the assistance of staff, administration, parents, community, and students. The documents are in continuous revision to ensure the opportunity of each child to reach his or her maximum potential. These plans are available on the district's website for review and comment by the public. Increasingly, the ACSIP is becoming an instrument that reflects the processes by which Dardanelle School District is endeavoring to be comprehensive in all efforts to enhance student achievement.

**After School Programs:** Dardanelle High School and Dardanelle Middle School operates a before and after school program through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant for school improvement. Jamie Burris is the Program Manager/Director of the successful 'before and after school' program. In order to continue the before and after school program, the schools seek community partnership as a means of sustainability.

**Assessment:** Students in grades 3-10 participated in ACT Aspire testing during the 2016-2017 school year. Included in this report is the number of students taking advanced placement courses and the percent of students making a 3.0, 4.0, or 5.0 on advanced placement exams. Dardanelle students continue to outperform most state and regional schools on state mandated assessments and with a score of 20.1 on the Spring mandated ACT, beating the state average of 18.8 on the ACT.

**Advanced Placement Data 2016/2017:**

133 AP tests were given in 9 subjects with 30% of students scoring a 3 or better.

Our average score per subject area:

Calculus-3.167

English Language and Composition-2.270

Studio Art 2D-2.667

US Government- 2.20

US History-1.593

Environmental Science-2.143

Human Geography-2.316

Music Theory-1.333

Our overall average AP score was 2.21

**Board Professional Development Training Hours  
(For the 2016-2017 School Year)**

Brandon Carter	6.0	hours
Jerry Dawson, President	6.0	hours
Sherry Hicks, Secretary	6.0	hours
Tony Sigle	12.0	hours
Jimmy Witt, Vice President	6.0	hours

This past year has seen the continuation of a pattern of growth and improvement that has become a trait of the Dardanelle School System. The district constantly seeks ways in which it can improve the quality of services offered to our students and patrons. The district will not rest on past accomplishments, but will continue the legacy of progress and improvement in the years to come.

The Dardanelle School District Board of Education and Staff are committed to providing a quality educational program for Dardanelle School District students. We welcome any comments or suggestions you might have. The district is fortunate to have parents, students, faculty, staff, and community members who strive daily to make the Dardanelle School District a place to prepare students to become responsible citizens who are equipped to achieve their dreams. Thank you for your support.

John Thompson  
Superintendent