



PYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC  
October 12, 2015

Pyron Elementary School  
Mission Statement:

All students will achieve academically, socially, and physically to the best of their ability. We will promote the development of successful and responsible students.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS:

ENROLLMENT:

Pyron enrollment as of October 2014 – 613  
12 over last year's October enrollment at this time  
213 students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
199 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
201 students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade

GENDER:

female--299  
male--314

ETHNICITY:

Asian – 4.40%, 27 students  
Black – 2.77%, 17 students  
Caucasian – 55.95%, 343 students  
Hispanic/Lantino—34.58%, 212 students  
Hawaii/PI – .49%, 3 students  
Two or more races—1.79%, 11 students

ECONOMIC STATUS:

75% free/reduced meals, up 2% from 14-15  
Serve approximately 225 breakfasts each morning  
Serve approximately 590 lunches each day

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Gifted/Talented: 15 students  
Special Education: 63 students  
Section 504: 8 students  
Alternative Classroom Instruction: 9 students  
LEP (Limited English Proficient): 170 students  
Migrant: 27 students  
Homeless: 31 students  
School choice: 31 students  
Home languages: 67.21% English, 28.06% Spanish, 3.59% Burmese, 1.13% others

STAFF: 2 certified and 2 classified less than 14-15

44 Certified Staff

27 Classified Staff including cafeteria staff and custodians

#### ACCREDITATION:

All certified teachers are fully accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education with one special education teacher working on an Additional Licensure Plan.

#### EXISTING PROGRAMS:

Pyron has fully implemented the standards of Common Core Curriculum as mandated by the Arkansas Department of Education. Our school is focusing on the following programs to effectively implement these standards:

#### LITERACY:

Pyron Elementary School continues to use the **Accelerated Reading, Star Reading, Effective Literacy, Readers and Writers' Workshop, Word Patterns, and Reading Labs** in second and third grades to supplement our reading programs. We continue to train new staff members in second and third grades in these programs. Our fourth grade teachers are using the same programs above with the exception of Effective Literacy and reading labs. Teachers are being trained in **Literacy Lab** to improve reading skills and provide students with meaningful reading experiences. In fourth grade students do not go to a reading lab, but we have two paraprofessionals who go into the classes and work with students individually or in small groups. We are continuing to increase our classroom libraries with more books (both fiction and non-fiction), magazines, journals, and technology accessibility. In second grade all students are screened for dyslexia markers with any students scoring low and not making progress referred for dyslexia interventions using the district-adopted **Barton reading system**.

#### MATH:

**My Math** teacher editions, student editions and digital resources are used again this year. Students are learning math concepts through research, discovery, and experimentation. We continue to use **Accelerated Math, Math Facts in a Flash, and Star Math** to supplement our math program.

#### COMPUTER LAB:

We are also continuing to teach our students to type correctly on the keyboard using the **Type-to-Learn** program. We use **Renaissance products** as remediation and enrichment for all students. Students go to the computer lab one time each week to work on math, reading, and research skills. The computer lab is also available for teacher-led research and reporting from 1:50-2:45 each day.

#### STEM and science:

**Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** is new to Pyron this year. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization and the nation's leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. Through world-class, activity-, project-, and problem-based curriculum, high-quality teacher professional development, and an engaged network of educators and corporate partners, PLTW helps students develop the skills needed to succeed in our global economy. PLTW courses are aligned with Common Core State Standards for Math and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and other national and state standards. Courses and units are designed to complement math and science courses. Students use structured approaches, like the engineering design process. They apply STEM knowledge, skills, and habits of mind, and *discover that trying different approaches and solutions is an essential part of the learning process*. As teachers and students learn and discover together, education becomes more **engaging and meaningful for everyone**. This year all Pyron students will learn one of the PLTW modules. The second grade module is called Grids and Games; third grade is Programming Patterns; and fourth grade is Input/Output: Computer Systems. For details about all PLTW Launch Modules go to <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-launch/pltw-launch-curriculum>.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

We will continue to expand and improve students' experiences in the outdoor habitat and wellness. Grants were received to plant two trees on the playground. Work continues to be done to improve the Pyron Nature Trail and renovate the amphitheater area. **\$8,000.00 Play 60 grant** was received to expand biking and fruits/vegetables programs with PE classes and needy children. The **Take Action** Reporting web-based reporting system is available on Pyron's web page to report bullying or other issues.

## TECHNOLOGY:

We are still a Smart Showcase School. So far this school year we have replaced **multiple teacher computers, video projection units, projectors, inherited enough netbooks for all students to use, purchased 1 laptop cart, and purchased 41 mini iPads**. Also, Pyron student accomplishments and projects are published and highlighted with our Pyron Elementary **APP, Facebook page, Twitter feed, and Principal blog on Sharepoint**. Our hallways house eight TV monitors to highlight student accomplishments, math facts or book recommendations. **The cafeteria** uses two TVs for highlighting birthdays, menu and healthy choices. All teachers, students and parents have access to **NetTrekker**, a digital learning resource library with more than 360,000 educator-curated resources — each one tagged, organized, and aligned to state and Common Core standards to find just what they need, quickly and safely. **Renaissance Home** connect letters were also sent to allow parents to view student reading progress online. Teachers use TAC (teacher access center) to enter grades and attendance and **Planbook.com** to enter lessons while the parents can view attendance, grades, and discipline with **HAC** (home access center) and view lessons with Planbook.com. Parents received a letter of HAC login instructions and password. We continue to use the **ALERT Now** call system that enables us to make mass calls to our students for announcements and emergencies.

## ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Pyron has our own ALE classroom to best serve the needs of our students who are not able to succeed in the regular classroom because of behavioral or emotional issues. This classroom will serve a maximum of 10 students. With a Daysprings counseling services counselor working with these students full-time, these students receive consistent, needed behavioral health and monitoring to work toward individual goals. Students are placed in ALE only after pre-screening and a committee decision. ALE students can work their way back into the regular classroom.

## RESPONSE TO INTERVENTIONS

All Pyron teachers, with the guidance and coordination of our district examiner and LEA, are documenting student progress every two weeks and charting classroom interventions using district forms.

## QUIZ BOWL

Our fourth grade classes participate in Quiz Bowl. We will have matches against other area schools. This program is coordinated through our Gifted and Talented program.

## CHARACTER EDUCATION:

Pyron Elementary adopted the "Cub" as our mascot and the children named him "Spirit." Our CUBS logo is **Caring stUdents Believe and Succeed**. We will use this program through our counselor Mrs. Brewer to encourage good character and citizenship throughout our school and community. Students are also recognized for good character choices through Mrs. Brewer's Student of the Month bulletin board and monthly CUB lunches with the administrators. Students will study and incorporate the *7 Habits of Happy Kids* through Mrs. Brewer's lessons.

## CUB Cam STUDIO:

Along with our character education program comes Cub Cam. Every morning we have video broadcast of daily announcements. Students are chosen for this broadcast based on good citizenship and attendance in class. We also use Cub Cam for book talks and to show the whole school what other unique things are going on in other classes. The studio is housed in the music room, is complete with custom sewn backdrops, lighting panel, "teleprompter" and a special segments. These are shared through private YouTube links.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN:

The Pyron Parent Resource Center, now housed in the media center, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. To accommodate working parents, the Center will be open until 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Parents have access to make and take games, **three iPads**, read along books and tapes, books, periodicals, and magazines that can be checked out and taken home. Our visitors, volunteers, and **Watch Dog** dads can now log in to our Volunteer computer in the main office upon arrival. This computer software allows the office and volunteer coordinator to know who is in the building at all times and run reports. We also have a Grandparents program, **Foster Grandparents** that allows senior citizens an opportunity to work with students and assist teachers.

Pyron Elementary School provides opportunities each year for parents to learn about what goes on here at school. Our Parent Literacy Night is in the Fall/early winter. Families come to learn literacy strategies they can use at home through our **Gingerbread House Night**. We are continuing to use the **Pyron App** available through School Info App at the Apple App Store or Google Play.

## GOALS:

1. Since Arkansas has adopted the national Common Core Curriculum Standards, Pyron Elementary has started our fifth year of teaching to these and will continue to align our curriculum in math and literacy both vertically and horizontally as well as train our teachers for best strategies to meet CCSS and state assessments.
2. Implement TESS (Teacher Excellence and Support System)
3. We will continue to train new staff members in Effective Literacy, Writers'/Readers' Workshop, Literacy Lab, Word Patterns, Pathwise Mentoring, and Professional Learning Community Committees.
4. We will continue to incorporate Accelerated Reading, Accelerated Math, Star Reading, and Star Math programs to increase students' math and literacy skills.
5. We will continue to research and implement proven programs and professional developments to assist teachers improve student achievement.
6. We will continue to add technology to enhance instruction and learning.

**Please direct any questions or comments you have about Pyron to  
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