

Dermott Public Schools
Report To The Public
In compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Public Schools in Arkansas
October 6, 2015

Vision Statement:

The Dermott School District has a vision to produce students that are open-minded, well-educated, responsible, productive citizens.

Mission Statement:

The Dermott School District is committed to educating all children to standards of excellence in a safe environment that will empower them to be successful in higher education and the workplace.

General Information:

Enrollment: October 1, 2015 - 371 October 1, 2014 – 416 -45 Students

Goals: The following goals apply to the entire school district:

1. To increase achievement for all students
2. To provide a drug and violence free environment conducive to learning
3. To increase the high school graduation rate
4. To build our staff capacity to perform at a high level
5. To ensure that all the required portions of the TESS and LEADS systems are appropriately implemented with fidelity per state mandated implementation
6. To engage the community, staff, families, students, elected officials, and other stakeholders in supporting our school and improving educational outcomes for all students

All teachers are certified in their area of instruction with the exception of the following for which waivers have been requested and granted for District Superintendent, Elementary Special Education Teacher, and Pre-K Elementary Long Term Substitute Teacher.

Dermott School District School Improvement Classification: Needs Improvement District

Accreditation

All schools in the district are fully accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Annual Public Meeting:

The Dermott Public School held a public meeting on October 6, 2015, 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room located in the Administration Building. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress toward accomplishing district program goals, accreditation standards, and school objectives for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Principals gave an overview of programs in each school. All parents and patrons were encouraged to attend.

An overview of summer projects was reported including facilities, buses and school vehicles. A list of maintenance up-dates at each building level was presented.

Superintendent Kristi Ridgell reported our schools mills are 41.81 mills.

Mrs. Ridgell also reported a recent building survey concerning asbestos resulted in no conditions that posed problems. An Operations and Management Plan to safely manage all areas is available for viewing in the Central Office.

Staff Development: All certified staff members will gain 60 hours of staff development during the 2015-2016 school year. Embedded in these 60 hours will be at least six (6) hours of technology. This school year the Dermott School District is focusing professional development on implementing four initiatives: the new Common Core State Standards for Literacy and Math, TESS evaluation for teachers (Teacher Excellence Support System) UBD (Understanding by Design) and ACT Aspire. These four initiatives support each other in the educational process that will make our students 21st century learners.

Federal Programs

This year applications were written for Title I and II-A. School Improvement Plans are written in Indistar. The goal of these plans is to improve overall achievement of all students as measured by the Arkansas state mandated assessments. Indistar Plans can be viewed using the guest logins provided on the district webpage.

Title I-All schools receiving Title I funding are operating under school-wide guidelines. This permits all students the opportunity to receive additional assistance in academic areas.

Title II-A-this federal program provides for teacher quality enhancement. With this portion of federal funding, we are able to provide additional professional development, pay substitutes for teachers to attend professional development and offer stipends to teachers for attending same.

Title VI State -This program is used in conjunction with Title I and provides for students and teachers.

Special Needs Funding-This funding is used for curriculum, staff development, literacy and math instruction, materials, supplies, and equipment, including technology for pre-approved programs. Alternative Learning Environment and English Second Language are among the categories in this funding.

Vocational: This funding is used for new or expanded vocational programs. Programs in this area are: Business, Family and Consumer Science, Med-Pro Ed.

Gifted and Talented: Lana Smith Coordinator - Students in grades K-2 are served in self-contained classrooms. Students in grades 3-8 are served in a pull-out program and students 9-12 are served in regular education classrooms with the regular education teacher having received training. The GT program has three successful quiz bowl teams that compete in district, regional and state competitions.

Special Education: Dawn Campagna - LEA Supervisor - Special Education students are served by 2 Certified Special Education teachers, 2 long term substitutes, 2 paraprofessionals, and 1 CNA. These students receive services through instruction in the regular classroom, resource room or self-contained room, speech therapy. Occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling services are related services that are available.

Dermott Elementary School**Grades K-6****Shakelia Jackson, Principal****Enrollment 221 K-6 and 15 Pre-K (236 total)****Needs Improvement: Focus School – Achieving in Literacy, Needs Improvement in Math**

The goal of the Dermott Elementary School is to improve student achievement in Literacy, Science and Mathematics and to provide support to students in making Healthy Lifestyle Choices. Dermott Elementary is a Focus School, which means we fall in the lower 10% of Title I schools with the largest TAGG subgroup. A student is a member of the TAGG group if he/she fits in one of the three categories: Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities or English Language Learners. We have several programs in place to help reach our goal. Such as Cognitive Guided Instruction in Math, Building Instructional Units and Implementing pre and post assessments for math. Arkansas Department of Education has decided to use ACT Aspire as our Spring test in place of PARCC and Benchmark from previous years. We will work to prepare our students for this test.

New Staff Members:

Shakelia Jackson, K-6 Principal

Lawarn Rodgers, K-6 Counselor and Parent Facilitator

Jacob Lee, PE Teacher

Jazmine Hawkins, Special Education Paraprofessional

Brooke Morgan, 1st Grade Teacher

Patricia Hartley, 5th grade Math and Science

Gina Tabor, 5th grade Literacy and Social Studies Teacher

Terri Williams, Paraprofessional

Henry Shifflett, Special Education Teacher

Programs in Place:

Adopt a Class program

Reading Recovery

DaySprings Behavioral Health Services

Foster Grandparent Program

AmeriCorps Program

Accelerated Reader

Parent Teacher Association

Cognitive Guided Instruction in Math

Achieve 3000

Building Instructional Units using Understanding by Design and Building Your Own Curriculum

Implementing Pre and Post Assessments

Fruit and Vegetable Grant

High School**Grades 7-12****Mike Duncan, Principal Grades****Enrollment 155****Needs Improvement: Priority School – Achieving in Literacy, Needs Improvement in Math--Academic Distress****New Staff Members:**

Mike Duncan – Principal

Regan Dye-Rudback – English

Missy Adams--High School Media Center

Clint Gharis--Math Teacher

Paige Cashion---ALE/Economics Teacher

Dermott is a Priority School. Our Math scores are a special concern, having missed our AMO the past two years. Dermott High School has been identified as Academic Distress School. We have collaborated with ADE and created a 45 day plan to monitor our progress. We will continue to use TLI (The Learning Institute) for our interim testing along with the ACT Aspire assessments. We are using our 1003a grant funds to improve student achievement by purchasing materials and supplies based our needs assessment. We are also providing after school tutoring and credit recovery through Odysseyware to our students.

We secured the 21st Century Grant to provide after school tutoring, remediation, and credit recovery. Mrs. Leonard is over this program that should service approx. 100 students in the district. We also provide the students a meal and snack before they go home.

The SIS and staff have worked extremely hard to create and follow our 45 day plan.

All juniors will take the ASVAB.

All 10th Graders will take the ACT PLAN.

All 8th Graders will take the ACT EXPLORE.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Clubs and organizations are available for student membership. Many students are involved in athletics. Students may select such activities as basketball, cheerleader, band, choir, quiz bowl. Several are involved with the yearbook publication.

Curriculum

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students, if they are 18 years or older, sign a Smart Core waiver form to not participate. A minimum of 22 units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum, but it should be noted that following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. More detailed information can be found in the 2015/2016 Student/Parent Handbook.

Dermott School District also offers digital learning courses that are approved as either primary or supplementary methods of instruction. Students are required to take at least (one) digital learning course for credit while in high school.

This year, we have begun work on defining our local curriculum as units of study that will be shared in a digital format. This work will be done K-12, with the ultimate goal being to receive input from all district shareholders.

Parental Involvement

Statement: The Dermott School District is committed to providing our students an excellent education. We invite parents to be involved in this process. Together, we can provide the best education for our students.

The goals for Parent Involvement are as follows:

1. To encourage parent participation of students at all grades in a variety of roles.
2. To recognize that communication between home and school should be two-way and meaningful.
3. To ensure information is sent home in a language and form that parents can understand.

Parents are always encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education. Two Parent Teacher conferences will be scheduled during the 2015-2016 school year; October 20th from 12-6 PM and March 17th from 12 -6 PM. Continuous communication will be kept with parents through phone calls, letters, conferences, and progress reports.

Parents were invited to attend orientation sessions before the school year began. Parents serve on various committees and will be provided opportunities throughout the school year to be involved with their student's education. The Parental Involvement committee meet September 29, 2015 with 7 parents and 3 school employees, where we reviewed the plan for the district and made necessary adjustments. PTA works cooperatively within the community and school to provide informative programs of interest to parents and students.

Each school offers a Parent Center located in the building. The center houses material and supplies to help parents and students. Shakelia Jackson is the District's Parent Coordinator. DES Parent Facilitator is LaWarn Rodgers. DHS Parent Facilitator is Christy Toney. Parent Facilitators can be reached by calling the office.

Our district has created a Clothing Closet in the High School building for all students in the district. We are working to implement a Food Pantry, Food Backpacks for the Weekend, and Dental Services on campus. Look for additional information.