

2020 – 2021 REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

Arkansas Arts Academy (AAA)



ARKANSAS
ARTS ACADEMY
Aspire. Achieve. Advance.

The Arkansas Arts Academy is required to prepare an Annual Report for presentation to the community. The 2020-2021 report highlights progress and achievements and provides a summary of planned improvement processes and future directions. AAA has experienced along with most other school districts significant impact due to school closures, virtual instruction and the social and behavioral impact of COVID-19. Staff and faculty, parents and administrators have worked together to meet the needs of each student. From rigorous academic engagement, as well as support for those facing learning, speech or physical challenges, AAA offers unique, comprehensive educational approaches for K to 12th grade students with a special emphasis on the arts and arts integration. The District takes pride in its highly qualified teachers – nearly half of all classroom teachers have a master’s degree, and while we have no National Board Certification, we strive to encourage participation among the faculty in this area. The District also serves almost 1,200 K-12 students which is nearly the authorized cap for enrollment. As an open enrollment charter, we are required to participate in a lottery for student registration, which means that socioeconomic background and diversity cannot be a part of participation. However, AAA works to promote the lottery opportunity in our various communities across a 3-county area.

The elementary school (K-6) has a variety of “special classes”. At the K-4 grade levels, students are exposed to a variety of arts on a daily basis throughout the year including dance, guitar, orchestra, piano, general music, visual arts, computer science, and theatre. At the 5-6 grade levels, students have a choice in their daily art offerings. The high school has a comprehensive set of dance, music, theater, visual arts, media arts and computer technology opportunities across grades 7-12. The high school also has college preparatory programs, including Pre-AP and AP as well as articulations with several local post-secondary institutions for concurrent enrollment. AAA takes seriously its students-in-need who require special assistance, intervention, instructional support and guidance. To better determine areas of needed support for those students and to provide resources that include best practices for both campuses, the District has worked in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education to provide additional assistance and created a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to guide elementary, middle and high school students with a roadmap that identifies and organizes strategies and resources that will lead to student success. The district and each school’s SIP highlights three main goals for improvement, with one of the goals being academic improvements, the other in terms of equity and access, and the last in terms of improved communications and awareness between the district and the community.

The impact of COVID and learning loss has been dramatic. Some actions for reducing academic deficits include: implementing the District’s literacy curriculum with fidelity at every school, observing instructional delivery in classroom, monitoring academic progress with interim assessments, continued collaboration through Professional Learning Communities, and utilization of data to guide instruction and support to students. The administration continued its stakeholder engagement efforts integrating interactive social media outreach, public forums, and superintendent-led communication improvements. Those efforts will continue in the 2021-2022 school year. With increasing enrollment, expectations and the budget continue to grow. This is good. However, careful monitoring is required to maintain balance between growing programs and economic efficiency. A contract with APSRC has helped to insure high quality oversight.

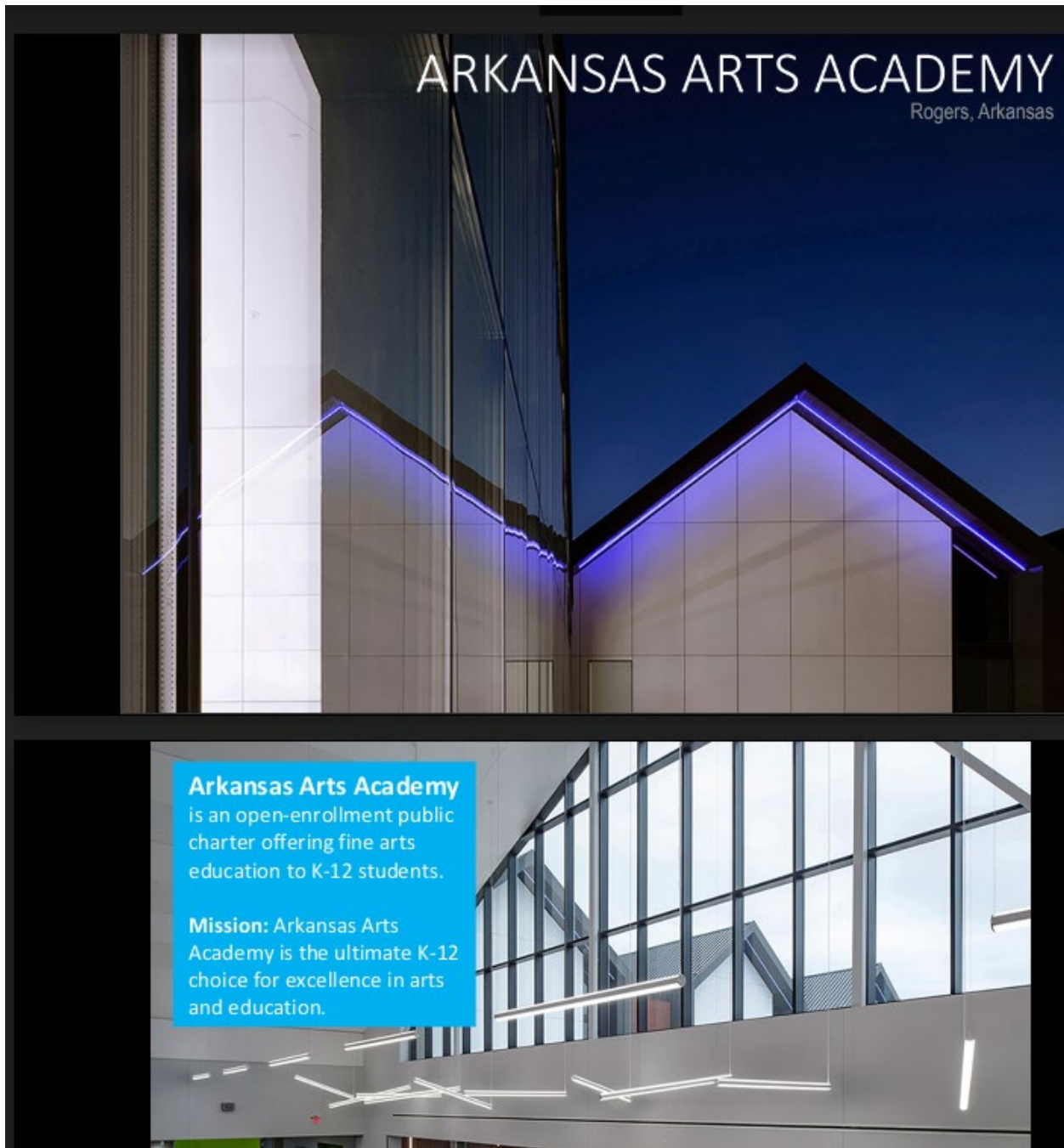
This has been an interesting transition year for the Arkansas Arts Academy’s Board of Directors. Four new board members were added last year. Two board members who have served 13 years and 21+ years are stepping down. Two new board members have been elected. It will be an exciting, forward-focused board who leads the organization into its next 20 years. This year, the Board has updated its policies and procedures, created a new ethics policy, established financial review for any item or activity over \$500.

This report, the School Improvement Plan and the 2021-2022 budget will be offered to the community at the May 2021 board meeting for comment and review. The U.S. News and World Report recently announced that Arkansas Arts Academy High School had improved its status from 20th in the state to 9th.

The 2020-21 Budget Projections are as follows:

	ACTUAL Period 1 JUL	ACTUAL Period 4 AUG	ACTUAL Period 1 SEPT	ACTUAL Period 4 OCT	ACTUAL Period 5 NOV	ACTUAL Period 6 DEC	ACTUAL Period 7 JAN	ACTUAL Period 8 FEB	ACTUAL Period 9 MAR	Projected Period 10 APR	Projected Period 11 MAY	Projected Period 12 JUN
Beginning Balance	378,746.51	611,362.02	578,178.52	642,734.76	708,459.08	715,566.73	767,247.23	992,191.99	1,017,851.12	1,138,705.54	1,120,139.77	1,201,969.00
Revenue	693,305.65	664,904.57	793,148.61	723,321.75	708,117.77	738,145.74	972,940.35	709,164.51	864,742.98	708,145.99	833,145.99	714,288.97
Expenditures	460,690.14	696,779.33	728,592.37	657,597.43	697,911.68	686,465.24	745,354.44	683,505.38	743,888.56	726,711.76	751,316.76	1,403,267.69
Ending Balance	611,362.02	579,487.26	642,734.76	708,459.08	718,665.17	767,247.23	994,833.14	1,017,851.12	1,138,705.54	1,120,139.77	1,201,969.00	512,990.28
Restricted Balance (Categorical/SPED PreK/ Recognition)												
Unrestricted												
<i>Please note that July does not have a full amount of expenses and benefits since teachers contract not begins in August</i>												





Board of Directors:

- Tony Beardsley, President
- Jeff Hunnicutt, Vice President
- Nate Fries, Secretary/Treasurer
- Cara Riley, Member
- Leslee Post, Member
- Adrienne Jackson, Member
- Howard Alsdorf, Member