

Report to the Public 10-9-2018

The 2018-19 school year is off to the best start in memory. The South Pike County School District (SPCSD) is operating three campuses, Murfreesboro High School, Murfreesboro Elementary, and Delight Elementary, all operating under the model policies produced by the Arkansas School Board Association and modified by the local District.

All campuses of the South Pike district are fully accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education. We are meeting the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act, which is in place as a technology and internet safety measure. This includes blocking or filtering internet access for all users, helping to prevent users from accessing material that is harmful to minors. All users are required to sign usage agreements which give the guidelines for usage, and are instructed in the safe and ethical use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking. Students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their school computer use. Each student in grades K-12 now have an iPad for educational use.

We currently have 676 students enrolled. Of these, 93 are at Delight Elementary, 291 are at Murfreesboro Elementary, and 292 are at Murfreesboro High School. We have a total of 45 classified employees, and 74 licensed employees. All employees are working under a unified salary schedule and personnel policies.

We have a combination of alternative learning environment classes, computerized activities, after-school tutoring, E-Instruction, and APEX as interventions to help in the effort to raise test scores.

The District has Leadership Teams in place, on both the district and building levels, to promote school improvement. These teams consist of administrators, teachers, and parents. The teams are considering many possible avenues for improvement, all focused on student achievement. The District has invested greatly in Energy Bus training for elementary teachers, to improve relationship building and school culture. The high school is in the second year of utilizing Flex-Mod scheduling. Changes have been made to address identified problems from last year, with good results to this point. We are also in the second year of the Signature Award program, in which employees nominate their peers for outstanding service. Thanks to Bank of Delight, Diamond Bank, and First State Bank, the high school, elementary, and district winner each month receive a \$20 gift certificate to the local restaurant of their choice.

The District now has the services of a School Resource Officer (SRO). Wayne Epperly, a Pike County Deputy, is on an SPCSD campus each day. He assists with trainings, drills, and any other aspect of the school pertaining to safety. We also have controlled access in place at key entrances to all three campuses, and completed our second ever campus evacuation drill this morning. This drill is to prepare for the possibility of the failure of Narrow's Dam.

Title I funds are being used to provide services above and beyond those required for all students on both elementary campuses, as well as technology supplies and software. Title II is being used for class size reduction and technology for classrooms. NSLA funds are being used to fund after school tutoring/remediation, our new Dyslexia Identifications, Response to Intervention, and to purchase much needed technology upgrades to advance learning.

South Pike County School District is an equal educational Title VI and Title IX school district. No student in the district shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the district. Our Equity Coordinator and Homeless Liason is Tanya Wilcher.