

Melbourne School District  
**Annual Report to the Public**

**2017-2018**

Melbourne School District held its annual meeting for the public in the administration building on October 16, 2017.

Preliminary Accreditation status of schools:

1. Melbourne Elementary School - Accredited
2. Melbourne High School – Accredited

The district and its schools are evaluated based on the Annual Measureable Objective (AMO) for performance and growth in math, literacy, and graduation rate. The scores each school achieved in 2011 on the Arkansas Benchmark became the baseline AMO. Each year, thereafter, the schools are expected to increase scores in math and literacy in elementary and high school and in graduation rate in the high school.

Each school of the district is measured in Math, Literacy, and Number Tested. Melbourne High School is also measured on the number of students graduating. Interventions and actions for improving the graduation rate and increasing proficiency in math and literacy are addressed in the school's improvement plan, ACSIP, which can be found on the district website, <http://bearkatz.k12.ar.us>.

The following is the 2017 Preliminary Report for the schools of Melbourne District.

2017 Data Arkansas ACT Assessment	Melbourne Elementary All Students	Melbourne Elementary Targeted* Groups
English	<b>84%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Math	<b>69%</b>	<b>42%</b>
Science	<b>53%</b>	<b>37%</b>
Reading	<b>52%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Writing	<b>50%</b>	<b>22%</b>
	Melbourne High School All Students	Melbourne High School Targeted*
English	<b>80%</b>	<b>68%</b>

Math	<b>48%</b>	<b>24%</b>
Science	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Reading	<b>43%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Writing	<b>42%</b>	<b>44%</b>
Graduation Rate	<b>100%</b>	
	Melbourne School District All Students	Melbourne School District Targeted*
English	<b>82%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Math	<b>59%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Science	<b>48%</b>	<b>41%</b>
Reading	<b>50%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Writing	<b>46%</b>	<b>33%</b>

\*Targeted Population Includes: Special Education, 504, Free and Reduced, etc.

State law requires **data analysis** to determine gaps in achievement according to sub-populations of students. With a rural, fairly homogenous student population, there were no perceived differences in achievement. **Areas of concern in literacy** for the combined population of students in Melbourne School District include: Open Response in Practical and Literary Reading, Content and Style, and Vocabulary. In math, areas of concern are found in open response for Algebra, Data Analysis, Numbers and Operations, Geometry, and Measurement.

Schools in Arkansas will be taking the ACT and ACT aspire assessments this year. Curriculum is based on the **Arkansas Standards** which define the knowledge and skills students should have to ensure readiness for college and careers. These standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and other experts to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our students for college and the workforce. The Arkansas State Board of Education adopted the Arkansas Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics in July 2010.

Beginning in 2013-2014, teachers and administrators received training for the new teacher evaluation system, TESS, which formally began last year. The 2011 Arkansas General Assembly introduced and passed legislation to standardize comprehensive evaluation and support for licensed educators and non-licensed teachers employed in public charter schools under a waiver of teacher licensure requirements granted by the State Board of Education in the schools' charters. In the 2013 Legislative Session the Teacher Excellence and Support System was amended. TESS provides districts with a blueprint to operationalize a standardized valid and reliable evaluation and support

system focused on professional growth of educators as measured by professional practice as well as student growth and achievement. This evaluation and support system, coupled with Arkansas’s longitudinal data system teacher / student link, will provide state, district and school educators with essential feedback to ensure **College and Career Ready** (CCR) access and achievement for all Arkansas students.

Enrollment for 2017-2018 is as follows:

Melbourne High School – 421

Melbourne Elementary School – 455

The school district’s ACSIP plan has been submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education detailing the budgets for the following federal programs and district allotments:

<b>Title Program</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>
Title I	\$200,845.21
Title IIA	\$32,961.03
Title VI State	\$18491.95
Professional Development	\$22,593.00
NSLA	\$268,786.00
Alternative Learning Environment	\$7,900.00

**Title I funds** are being used schoolwide to supplement the state mandated curriculum in math and literacy. The annual allocation of funds is distributed to Melbourne High School and Melbourne Elementary School based on the areas of concern for each in literacy and math. Title I funds are designated for the following: Certified Personnel; Paraprofessionals; Response to Intervention with technology inclusion through the computer labs; Accelerated Reader/Math site license; supplemental response to intervention literacy and math software for the computer labs, Orchard and Mimio Ware; Smart Boards, Chromebooks, and components; and numerous other supplementary materials and supplies for the classrooms on each campus.

**Title I District Set Aside Money** for Melbourne allocation is budgeted and used for the following: welfare, health, and homeless materials & supplies; Title I coordinator materials and supplies; Title I coordinator salary and benefits; parental involvement

materials & supplies for centers and meetings; and professional development above the 60-hour requirement for purchased services, salaries, benefits, materials & supplies.

**Title IIA** funds were transferred into Title I for the 2017-2018 school year. **ALE funds** (Alternative Learning Environment) are designated for employee salaries and benefits. **Professional Development funds** are utilized for the expenses associated with staff development which include: instructor salaries/benefits, supplies, food, and travel. **Title VI money** is allocated for instructional related technology to enhance the math and literacy programs.

The 2017-2018 **NSLA State Categorical Funding** Set Aside Money for Melbourne School District is budgeted and utilized for the following: salary for a part-time nurse's assistant; professional development meetings dues and fees; Health and Safety teaching materials; a district staff development coordinator for improvement of instruction; a counselor; before and after school enrichment; Resource Officer for the district; instructional facilitator of math and literacy through technology; Smart Boards and accessories; school health coordinator; books; Personnel for Early Intervention through Enrichment for high school in danger of failing or dropping out; and ACT summer prep program. All NSLA money budgeted is for personnel and materials and supplies above standards and will benefit instruction in math, literacy, college and career, parental involvement, etc.

Each school in the District has a Gifted and Talented program. Students may be referred to the program by teachers, a student's parents or guardian and by peers. Upon referral, a committee will review all applicants and accept those that meet the guidelines set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education and Melbourne School District.

Melbourne School District has a **Parental Involvement Plan**, which includes surveys for parents. All three campuses have a designated Parent/Teacher center. In addition, teachers send home information on parenting and parental involvement along with other enrollment information at the beginning of each school year. Each campus has conducted its open house, where students and parents have an opportunity to visit the classrooms and participate in parent and student orientations in grades 5, 7 and 9. The schools have scheduled other parental involvement activities throughout the year: "Parents Make the Difference" evenings, Family Math/Science/Literacy Nights, Senior Citizens' Dinner at Christmas, Grandparents' Day for Kindergarten, Sixth Grade Parents' Night, Art Exhibit and Community Cookout and numerous other parental involvement activities. The Melbourne School District Parental Involvement Plan may be found on the website. Melbourne School District also has a Facebook page which will keep you up-to-date on activities at both schools.

District and “state required information” is located on the website at <http://bearkatz.k12.ar.us>. Parents/Guardians may stay informed of the child’s classroom progress by accessing **TAC** on the Melbourne School District website where teachers post grades and principals post announcements. The district website provides access to each school’s page where parents can find news and events happening on each campus.

The district currently offers all **38 courses** required by standards for **accreditation**. The school could opt to offer some of these courses every other year, but they are available for class enrollment each year. A letter is sent to parents concerning the courses offered as required by Arkansas state law.

Melbourne School District has a **Child Internet Safety Plan** in place as required by law. The plan helps to insure that students are not exposed to pornographic, violent, or other undesirable content while using the internet at school. This plan is included in the Student Handbook located on the website.

The district currently offers an **ABC Preschool Program**, directed by Mrs. Amanda Bledsoe. The ABC program has 20 preschool children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years. The ABC curriculum is designed to prepare children for a successful transition into public school.

Melbourne School District began the **HIPPY** program that offers assistance to parents of preschool children. HIPPY is designed to be a home-based early childhood education program for parents of three, four, and five-year-old children. HIPPY is dedicated to increasing the chances of a positive early school experience among children from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The HIPPY program is facilitated by Mrs. Sarah McCandlis.

The district is working toward the goals set forth in the **Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan** (ACSIP). Each building is incorporating a number of interventions to help students achieve and maintain proficiency in math and literacy and to become college and career ready. All faculty members have participated in a minimum of 60 hours of professional development and are exceeding state requirements.

The following interventions to aid in increasing student proficiency are included in the ACSIP: Teachers for reducing class size; Paraprofessionals from Preschool through High School; Accelerated Reader; Accelerated Math; Technology in Smart Classrooms; Enterprise Licensing for Technology; Wireless Support for iPads, Laptops, Chromebooks, etc.; Literacy Lab in Elementary; DIBELS in Elementary; Licensing for Software for Computer Labs; Ipads, Laptops, Chrome-books; Orchard and Odyssey Ware for Computer Labs; National Geographic Supplementary reading; Smart Boards; and Apps for more technology inclusion.

## Questions and Answers

The session ended with comments and questions from the audience.

### **Smart Core Curriculum Policy**

Smart Core is Arkansas's college- and career-ready curriculum for high school students. College and career readiness in Arkansas means that students are prepared for success in entry-level, credit-bearing courses at two-year and four-year colleges and universities, in technical postsecondary training, and in well-paid jobs that support families and have pathways to advancement. To be college and career ready, students need to be adept problem solvers and critical thinkers who can contribute and apply their knowledge in novel contexts and a variety of situations. Smart Core is the foundation for college and career-readiness. All students should supplement additional rigorous coursework within their career focus.

Students entering the seventh grade must choose the Smart Core Curriculum or the Core Curriculum. Upon completion of the sixth grade, each student's parents or guardians will receive a letter explaining the differences and options between these choices. Both the Smart Core and Core Curriculums will be outlined in this letter. Arkansas law requires that students complete 22 units if they choose the smart core option. However, Melbourne Schools require 23 units total to qualify for graduation. Prior to the start of each school year, a parent meeting will be held for seventh and ninth grade orientation. During this meeting, the principal and counselors will discuss the various elements of the two curriculum choices. All students will participate in the Smart Core unless the parent or guardian waives a student's right to participate. In the case of a waiver, the student will be required to participate in the Core Curriculum. Should a student and his/her parents decide to change from one curriculum to another, the parent will sign a document indicating that they wish for their child to be moved into the other program. Each student's parents will be required to sign consent forms indicating that they have been informed of and clearly understand the choices they have for their children. Students who transfer to other schools will have their informed consent forms and all other appropriate records forwarded to their new school. Informed consent documents will become a part of each student's permanent record. Staff will periodically attend continuing education workshops to stay current in Smart Core/Core Curriculum procedures.

**Beginning with the entering 9th grade class of the 2014 – 2015 school year, each high school student shall be required to take at least one digital learning course for credit to graduate regardless of smart core or core curriculum choice. (Act 1280 of 2013)**

## Smart Core Curriculum

English – 4 units

- English 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Transitional Literacy (does not count as a unit)

Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 unit of Computer Science\*) At least one MATH unit must be taken in Grade 11 or Grade 12.

- Algebra I or Algebra A&B (Grades 7-8 or 8-9)
- Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A&B (Grades 8-9 or 9-10)
- Algebra II
- Fourth Math—Choice of: Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Trigonometry, Statistics, Computer Math, Algebra III (Transitional Math course), Computer Science and Mathematics, or an Advanced Placement Mathematics course. (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.)

Science – 3 units with lab experience (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 unit of Computer Science\*):

- Biology – 1 unit (All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)
- Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics – 2 units

Social Studies – 3 units

- Civics – ½ unit
- World History – 1 unit
- U.S. History – 1 unit
- Other Social Studies – ½ unit

Oral Communications – ½ unit

Physical Education – ½ unit

Health and Safety – ½ unit

Economics – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)

Fine Arts – ½ unit

Career Focus – 6 units

**\*Computer Science – (optional)** A flex unit of Computer Science and Mathematics, Essentials of Computer Programming, AP Computer Science, or IB Computer Science may replace the 4th math requirement or the 3rd science requirement. Two distinct units of the computer science courses listed above may replace the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirement. If the 4th math requirement and the 3rd science requirement have been met through other coursework, any of the computer science courses listed above may be used for career focus credit.

**Parents or guardians may waive the right for a student to participate in Smart Core and instead to participate in the Core curriculum. The parent must sign the separate Smart Core Waiver Form to do so.**

### Core Curriculum

**English – 4 units**

- English 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- English 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Transitional Literacy (does not count as a unit)

**Mathematics – 4 units (or 3 units of math and 1 unit of Computer Science\*)**

- Algebra I (or Algebra A & Algebra B - each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement)
- Geometry (or Geometry A & Geometry B - each may be counted as one unit of the 4 unit requirement)

**All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.**

**Science – 3 units (or 2 units with lab experience and 1 unit of Computer Science\*)**

- Biology - 1 unit (All students must have 1 unit in Biology, IB Biology, ADE Biology, ADE Approved Biology Honors, or Concurrent Credit Biology.)
- Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics – at least 1 unit
- other ADE approved science

**Social Studies – 3 units**

- Civics - ½ unit

- World History - 1 unit
- U.S. History - 1 unit
- other social studies – ½ unit

Oral Communications – ½ unit

Physical Education – ½ unit

Health and Safety – ½ unit

Economics – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)

Fine Arts – ½ unit

Career Focus – 6 units

### Melbourne High School Report to the Public

Enrollment at the High School is currently 421.

Our Graduation Rate for 2016 was 100%. 2017 rate has not been released yet.

We currently have three teachers on an Additional Licensure Plan: Kelli Swaim for Physical Science and Tanner Hoskinds and Andrew Jenkins for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science.

The 2017-2018 student hand book was distributed the first week of school. A copy can also be accessed through the school website.

The GT program serves our students both through Pre-AP and AP courses.

Part of our goal at MHS is to encourage students to become involved in extracurricular activities. Our current offerings include our list of sports teams, band, choir, student council and other clubs.

ACTAspire scores are in and individual results have been sent to students. An incentive program has been implemented at the high school that rewards students for scoring ready and exceeding.

Our Advanced Placement courses are AP Cal AB, Lit and Comp, US History, Language and Comp, and Biology.

The ACT Aspire scores demonstrated growth in most areas:

High School Averages for 7-10 for the 2016 and 2017 assessments are as follows:

2016

English – 76%

Reading – 48%

Math – 44%

Writing – 43%

Science – 38%

2017

English – 80%

Reading – 43%

Math – 48%

Writing – 42%

Science – 43%

This year an advisory program has been implemented that focuses on providing students in grades 7 -12 with the soft skills necessary for succeeding beyond high school and with a guided 4 year plan to help them select courses that best prepare them for their career path, whether it be college, two year school, or straight into the workforce. The program is off to a great start and periodic feedback will help us improve the program for the next year.

### Melbourne Elementary Report to the Public

Melbourne Elementary has an enrollment of 455 students.

This year Mrs. Kratochvil started a program called TAASC (Teaching Academically Advanced Students Collectively). This allows students that were not formally identified as qualifying for the Gifted and Talented Program, but they exhibit academically advanced behaviors in the classroom. Mrs. Kratochvil works with the classroom teachers and these students come to her during our Intervention time. This allows the classroom teachers to work with those students who are struggling in some academic area.

MES offers tutoring for Grades K-5 after school. Sixth grade has Intervention at the end of the day and this is used as a tutoring time. Kindergarten will begin tutoring after Christmas Break.

We had an Intramural Basketball Night for K-6 this past Tuesday night. There was a great turnout and the students had a wonderful time. Our last Intramural game will be on Tuesday, October 24 for grades K-6.

Mrs. Whitney started the PeeWee Basketball practices. She has several boys and girls playing this year.

The Melbourne Fire Department brought the fire truck and talked to the Kindergarten students about fire safety. Thank you Rusty and crew.

October 2-4, students in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade were assessed using the Renaissance STAR program. This is the assessment tool we adopted for those grades to stay in compliance with new testing legislation. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade were given the STAR Early Literacy and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade had some students in Early Literacy and then some in STAR Reading and STAR Math.

This week, October 9-13, students in grades 3-6 have completed their first Interim ACT Aspire assessment. Next week, specialist in Literacy, Science and Math will come to MES and spend a half day with each grade level 3-6 and look at the data from these assessments and provide guidance to our staff.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m., Eddy Bowman will be a guest of the MES Library. He is an author that goes by Chester Drawers. He will do a presentation for the students.

Kindergarten and First Grade will visit the pumpkin patch at the Boys Ranch in Bethesda on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a music program on October 30 at the High School Gym.

Mrs. Amy Love's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class was the winner of our Great Attendance Race. They were the first to get Mr. Chaney's World-Famous Popcorn and a drink. As each class has completed 16 days of Perfect Attendance they have also received popcorn and a drink.

#### Bearkatz Academy Report to the Public

Bearkatz Academy has a current enrollment of 93 students ages birth – 5 years of age. We also serve 24 Melbourne Elementary students daily after school. Bearkatz

Academy is a Level 3 Better Beginnings center, which is the highest level of achievement through the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

So far this school year, Bearkatz Academy has hosted a Grandparents' Breakfast and been visited by the Melbourne Fire Department for fire safety education. We are planning an upcoming pumpkin patch field trip, fall festival, Trick-or-Treating at Melbourne Elementary, a food drive at Thanksgiving, Muffins for Mom, Donuts for Dad, a Christmas program, visits from various community helpers, and many other exciting educational opportunities.

Bearkatz Academy staff members have also developed an events committee to help plan and organize events for the school. In addition, a parental advisory committee has been formed to help the school in making the best choices for our students. The parental advisory committee met on October 5, 2017, and will meet again in December, March, and June.