

2020-2021
Annual Report to the Public

July 20, 2020



MELBOURNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MELBOURNE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ❖ Mr. Phillip Ferguson, President
- ❖ Mr. Rusty Campbell, Vice President
- ❖ Mr. Jason Lawrence, Secretary
- ❖ Mr. Matt Rush
- ❖ Mr. Jim Cooper
- ❖ Mr. Phillip Edwards
- ❖ Mrs. Lisa Manry

ADMINISTRATION

- ❖ Superintendent/Federal Programs Coordinator – Mr. Dennis Sublett
- ❖ High School Principal – Mr. Jim Carroll
- ❖ Elementary Principal – Mrs. Lori Loggains
- ❖ Preschool Director – Mrs. Amanda Bledsoe

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

- ❖ The 2018-2019 Legislative Audit as of 6-30-20 for Melbourne School District had two report findings:
 - ❖ Of 264 Free/Reduced Meal Applications sampled, four were past the 10 day processing timeline, three applications were missing required information, one application was classified incorrectly as free rather than reduced, one was classified incorrectly as reduced rather than paid, and no documentation was available for students transferring from other districts.
 - ❖ A contract was not available showing responsibilities of each party between MSD Cafeteria and Bearkatz Academy and Head Start programs.
- ❖ Both findings have been corrected.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

- ❖ Melbourne Elementary School – Accredited
- ❖ Melbourne High School – Accredited

ANNUAL MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE (AMO) FOR PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH IN MATH, LITERACY, AND GRADUATION RATE

- ❖ The 2011 Arkansas Benchmark scores for each school became the baseline AMO. Each year, thereafter, the schools are expected to increase scores in math and literacy in elementary and high school. The graduation rate is expected to increase in high school yearly as well.
- ❖ Interventions and actions for improving the graduation rate and increasing proficiency in math and literacy are addressed in the school's improvement plan which can be found on the district website, <http://bearkatz.k12.ar.us>.

STATE REPORT CARD AND SCHOOLDIGGER.COM

- ❖ Arkansas State Report Card score for Melbourne Elementary School: A
- ❖ Arkansas State Report Card score for Melbourne High School: A
- ❖ According to schooldigger.com, Melbourne School District is ranked 19th in the state with Melbourne Elementary being 43rd out of 488 schools and Melbourne High School being 31st out of 282 schools for the 2018-2019 school year.

DATA ANALYSIS

- ❖ State law requires data analysis to determine gaps in achievement according to subpopulations of students. With a rural, fairly homogenous student population, there were no perceived differences in achievement.

TESS (TEACHER EXCELLENCE SUPPORT SYSTEM)

- ❖ Beginning 2013-2014, teachers and administrators received training for the new teacher evaluation system, TESS. The 2011 Arkansas General Assembly introduced and passed legislation to standardize comprehensive evaluation and support for licensed educators 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. TESS was amended in the 2013 Legislative session.
- ❖ 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' longitudinal data system will provide state, district, and school educators with essential feedback to ensure College and Career Readiness (CCR) access and achievement for all Arkansas students.

2019-2020 FINAL ENROLLMENT

- ❖ Melbourne Elementary School – 441
- ❖ Melbourne High School – 395
- ❖ Bearkatz Academy - 105

PRELIMINARY TITLE I FUNDS 2020-2021

TITLE PROGRAM	2020-2021
Title I	\$183,202.86
Title IIA	\$26,993.43
Title IV	\$14,247.25
Professional Development	\$23,244.00
ESA (Formerly NSL)	\$225,654.00
Alternative Learning Environment (ALE)	\$0.00

TITLE I FUNDS

- ❖ Title I funds are used schoolwide to supplement the state mandated curriculum in math and literacy. The annual allocation of funds is distributed to Melbourne Elementary and Melbourne High School based on 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 Schools allocation is budgeted and used for the following: welfare, health, and homeless materials and supplies. It is also used for Federal Programs Coordinator salary and benefits, parental involvement materials and supplies for centers and meetings, and professional development above the 60 hour requirement for purchased services, salaries, benefits, materials, and supplies.

TITLE IIA AND TITLE IV FUNDS

- ❖ Title II A and Title IV funds were transferred into Title I for the 2019-2020 school year.
- ❖ Title II A and Title IV funds will be transferred into Title I again for the 2020-2021 school year.

ALE (ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT), PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, & TITLE VI FUNDS

- ❖ ALE funds are designated for employee salaries and benefits.
- ❖ Professional Development funds are utilized for the expenses associated with staff development including instructor salaries/benefits, supplies, meals, and travel.
- ❖ Title VI funds are allocated for instructional related technology to enhance the math and literacy programs.

2020-2021 ESL STATE CATEGORICAL FUNDING

❖ ESL (formerly NSL) funding is budgeted and utilized for the following: nursing salary and benefits, district staff for improvement of instruction, before and after school enrichment, a counselor, a district resource officer, dyslexia interventionists and tutors, preschool aides, books, personnel for early intervention through enrichment for high school in danger of failing or dropping out, and ACT summer prep programs. All ESL funding is budgeted for personnel and materials/supplies above standards and will benefit instruction in math, literacy, college and career, parental involvement, etc...

GIFTED AND TALENTED

❖ Each school in the Melbourne School District has a Gifted and Talented program. Students may be referred to the program by teachers, a student's parents or guardians, 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.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- ❖ Melbourne School District has a Parental Involvement Plan posted to the following website: <http://bearkatz.k12.ar.us>. Each campus has 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.
- ❖ Open House is held annually on each campus giving students and parents an opportunity to visit the classrooms and meet teachers and staff. Orientation is held for grades 5, 7, and 9 at this time as well.
- ❖ Other parental involvement activities throughout the year include: “Parents Make the Difference” evenings, Family Math/Science/Literacy Nights, Senior Citizens’ Dinner at Christmas, Grandparents’ Day for Preschool and Kindergarten, Sixth Grade Parents’ Night, Art Exhibit and Community Cookout, two parent/teacher conferences per year, and numeral other parental involvement activities.
- ❖ Melbourne School District also has a Facebook page which keeps parents and community members up-to-date on activities at all campuses.

MELBOURNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

OTHER INFORMATION

- ❖ District and State Required Information can be found on the Melbourne School District website, <http://bearkatz.k12.ar.us>.
- ❖ Parents/Guardians can access TAC on the website to view students' grades and school announcements.
- ❖ The district website also provides a page for each school with up-to-date information.
- ❖ The district currently offers 38 courses required by standards for accreditation for enrollment each year. A letter is sent to households concerning courses offered as required by Arkansas law.
- ❖ Melbourne School District has a Child Internet Safety Plan in place as required by law. This plan helps to ensure 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 and is viewable on the school website.

AMI DAYS

❖ Melbourne School District will not utilize AMI (Alternative Method of Instruction) days for 2020-2021 as we will be offering a Blended Learning Option for our students where students will be able to continue learning through Melbourne School District at home if needed.

EARLY CHILDHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Melbourne School District offers an ABC Preschool Program at our Birth-5 years of age childcare center, Bearkatz Academy. Bearkatz Academy and the ABC Program is directed by Mrs. Amanda Bledsoe. ABC serves 40 students ages 3-5, and the curriculum is designed to prepare students for a successful transition to public school.
- ❖ Melbourne School District participates in the HIPPY program that offers assistance to parents of preschool children through homebased early childhood instruction for children ages 3-5. 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.
- ❖ Melbourne School District/Bearkatz Academy Special Education for Early Childhood is provided by Pediatric Therapy, Inc. for Birth to 3 years of age and by NAESC for ages 3-5 years.

MEAL SERVICES

- ❖ Melbourne School District offers meals to our students at all three campuses that are in accordance with USDA, SNP, and CACFP regulations to provide healthy meal options for students.
- ❖ All students are offered breakfast and lunch daily. Bearkatz Academy students are also offered an afternoon snack each day.
- ❖ Melbourne School District offers Free and Reduced meals to students whose families qualify. Applications are sent home upon enrollment, on the first day of school, and are available on our school website. Families may reapply at any time during the school year if income for the household or the number of household members change.
- ❖ Current meal prices for elementary and high school students are as follows:
 - ❖ Breakfast - \$1.50
 - ❖ Lunch - \$2.85
 - ❖ Reduced Breakfast - \$0.30
 - ❖ Reduced Lunch - \$0.40

CHILD FIND

- ❖ Melbourne School District also participates in Child Find. Child Find is a legal requirement that schools find all children who may be eligible for special education services and provides these services to these children. Child Find covers all children ages birth to 21 years of age. This includes children who are being homeschooled or are in a private school.
- ❖ Any child suspected of a disability will be evaluated by the school. Mrs. Sarah Bookout, Melbourne School District Special Education LEA, facilitates this program.
- ❖ More information can be found on our website at bearkatz.k12.ar.us

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

- ❖ The current administration office is located on the old elementary campus. We are in the process of building a new administration office on the same grounds as the high school and elementary.
- ❖ Bearkatz Academy's parking lot received new stipes for parking slots and the exterior received some decorative painting. Bearkatz Academy is scheduled to soon receive new countertops and sinks throughout the classrooms. Bearkatz Academy is also planning to have concrete repair done to the sidewalk and asphalt repair done in the parking lot. In addition, Bearkatz Academy will be receiving a repaired/new roof for the building.
- ❖ The Melbourne High School track was resurfaced. MHS has also received new countertops in the bathrooms and will soon receive new faucets. All parking lot lights have been updated to LED lights as well. MHS FFA is also planning to build a show barn.
- ❖ The Melbourne Elementary School will receive touch up paint in the hallways.
- ❖ Hand sanitizing stations will be available in the hallways of MES and MHS. There will also be touchless water bottle fillers in each cafeteria, 2 in the MES hallway, 2 in the MHS hallway, 1 in the field house, and 1 in the gymnasium.
- ❖ OPAA Food Management, Inc. began serving Bearkatz Academy students July 1, 2020, and will be serving all campuses upon returning to school in August.
- ❖ Bearkatz Academy and HIPPY offices are located at the old elementary campus at 104 School Street.
- ❖ The elementary campus is located next to the high school campus at 300 Bearkatz Drive.
- ❖ The high school campus, football field house, and bus garage are also located at 310 Bearkatz Drive.

DISTRICT GOALS AND INTERVENTIONS

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Through the use of Title funding, the district is able to provide the following: classroom reduction teachers, paraprofessionals for preschool through high school, Accelerated Reader and Math, technology for Smart Classrooms, Enterprise Licensing for technology, Literacy Lab in elementary, DIBELS in elementary, licensing for software for computer labs, Orchard and Odyssey Ware, Smart Boards and apps for technology inclusion, and wireless support for iPads, laptops, and Chromebooks.

SMART CORE CURRICULUM POLICY

- ❖ Smart Core is Arkansas' 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 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 students choose the Smart Core option. However, Melbourne Schools require 23 units to qualify for graduation. Prior to the beginning of each school year, a parent meeting is held for seventh and ninth grade orientation where the principal and counselors discuss these various elements. All students will participate in the Smart Core unless a parent or guardian waives the right to do so. In the case of a waiver, the student will be required to participate in the Core Curriculum. Should a parent decide to change from one to another, the parent will sign a document indicating that they wish for their child to be moved in to 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 of 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)

DISTRICT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- ❖ Melbourne School District operates under School Board approved policies that are in accordance with Arkansas law.
- ❖ Melbourne School District has both certified and classified personnel policy committees to review policies for each group.
- ❖ School Board members received required annual school board training as outlined in ACA 6-13-629.
- ❖ In accordance with Act 1220 of 2003, Melbourne School District has a Health and Wellness Committee. This committee is responsible for addressing needs of students in areas of health and nutrition and providing plans and recommendations to improve the health, wellness, and nutrition of the district's students.

DISTRICT SAFETY PROCEDURES

- ❖ Monthly fire, tornado, and earthquake drills are held.
- ❖ Bus evacuation drills are held.
- ❖ Intrusion training is provided for all faculty and staff of the district.
- ❖ The MSD Crisis Intervention Plan was updated in 2019 by MSD SRO Jaden Whitfield and Mrs. Amanda Bledsoe. Mr. Whitfield and Mrs. Bledsoe provided training to all district employees of the crisis plan in August of 2019.
- ❖ First Aid Response Teams have been developed by the school nurses and school resource officer. Each classroom and general area of all campuses have been supplied with an emergency safety kit. Schools are also equipped with AED and Stop the Bleed kits. All district staff has been trained in CPR and Stop the Bleed.

MELBOURNE ELEMENTARY REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ Melbourne Elementary School ended the 2019-2020 School Year with our students learning remotely via Arkansas PBS due to Covid-19. The MES teachers and staff stayed in contact with students and parents and provided as much support as was possible through the fourth nine-weeks.
- ❖ Because of the uncertainty of the coming 2020-2021 School Year, administration and teachers have worked to develop a plan to ensure grade level instruction takes place no matter if that is in a traditional school room setting or in a remote, virtual setting.
- ❖ MES will utilize Seesaw for Schools as our Learning Management System for Kindergarten through Third Grade. Google Classroom will be utilized as the Learning Management Platform for Fourth through Sixth Grade.
- ❖ Leadership Teams have been established for each of these platforms and lead teachers will be trained and then provide training for the rest of the teaching staff. Materials and supplies necessary for successful implementation will be provided to the teachers.
- ❖ Teachers and staff will participate in focused professional development during the summer to ensure that they have the knowledge necessary for a successful school year. Parents and students will also receive training in the grade appropriate Learning Management Platform.
- ❖ MES students will have the opportunity to attend traditional blended, in-person instruction or digital learning. We will be ready to move into remote learning if necessary during the 2020-2021 School Year.
- ❖ MES Teachers that are in the process of completing the Science of Reading (RISE) professional development that is mandated by ADE, will continue and complete that training.
- ❖ Melbourne Elementary will discontinue the use of STAR Literacy and Math Diagnostic Testing and will begin using IStation Diagnostic Assessments. This diagnostic assessment is for both Literacy and Mathematics and will provide data as well as remediation and enrichment materials for students at his/her own learning pace.
- ❖ All teachers at Melbourne Elementary are Highly Qualified in the area in which they are currently teaching, except for one teacher currently on an Emergency Certification.

MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ Enrollment at the High School ended the 2019-2020 year at 395.
- ❖ Our Graduation Rate for 2019 was 93%.
- ❖ We currently have one teacher on an Additional Licensure Plan: Joanna Fulbright for Spanish.
- ❖ All high school teachers are Arkansas Qualified Teachers.
- ❖ We continue to be rated an “A” school for consecutive years.
- ❖ The 2020-2021 student handbook is available through the school website.
- ❖ The GT program serves our students through Pre-AP and AP courses for grades 9 – 12, and through enrichment opportunities implemented periodically to meet the needs of all GT students.
- ❖ 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.

MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC (CONT.)

- ❖ For assessment purposes and other data, the ACT Aspire assessments were not given this year due to COVID19. More important for the upcoming year is to assess missing content and find the gaps in student learning that may exist. Teachers will accomplish this through classroom assessments and through the following programs: Grades 7 & 8 will use I-Station, a program designed to assess student content knowledge and mastery; 9 – 12 will use ACT Aspire Interim assessments to identify mastery of content. Intervention will then be provided in supplementary form to help students regain lost learning opportunities and to assist in filling gaps in their content knowledge.
- ❖ Our current Advanced Placement courses are AP Cal AB, US History, Language and Comp, and Biology.
- ❖ The ACT Aspire scores demonstrated growth in Reading and Science. Individual student scores continue to show a trend of growth in nearly all students. The only students who have not shown growth are the students attending MHS that did not take the ACT Aspire assessments at their previous school.
- ❖ As we apply the Ready for Learning Plan from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), not only will students be assessed to provide instruction for missing or weak content knowledge, but we will also be constantly assessing, planning, and implementing strategies to improve student and teacher learning and development. For example, professional development was provided this summer and will continue throughout the year, for teachers to be trained in a Learning Management System (LMS) that will allow lessons to be taught to students at home, if the need arises and schools should have to let out for weather, pandemic, or other reasons. The LMS we will be using is Google Classroom. The LMS also provides teachers with the tools necessary to take the traditional class and move to the blended learning seamlessly when the need arises. This platform will even allow students the opportunity to find lessons and work on days they may have to miss for being sick. Gaps in instructional concepts and time can be minimized by accessing lessons placed in the student's Google Classroom classes.
- ❖ Our goal is to not only provide students the best education in the safest environment possible, but also to look ahead at how we can improve as learners, leaders, and positive contributors to our community.

BEARKATZ ACADEMY REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ Bearkatz Academy has a current enrollment of 85 for the fall semester. This is a maximum number for us currently with all classes completely full due to lower ratios due to COVID-19. In addition, students from Melbourne Elementary will be able to attend Bearkatz Academy's After School program daily.
- ❖ Bearkatz Academy is a Better Beginnings Level 3 Childcare Center. This is the highest achievable level for Arkansas. Bearkatz Academy is currently in the process of being recertified for this achievement.
- ❖ Melbourne School District currently holds 40 ABC (Arkansas Better Chance) grant slots providing early childhood education free of charge to families receiving the grant.
- ❖ Bearkatz Academy uses Adventures in Learning curriculum and Sing, Spell, Read, and Write curriculum. Preschool classes use APPLE Seed Connections to best prepare our students with dyslexia and/or other learning disabilities.
- ❖ Staff committees are being formed for the 2020-2021 school year for event planning and parental involvement.

ANNUAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

- ❖ Purchased 40 new teacher computers and added dual monitors for teacher classrooms.
- ❖ Purchased and installed vaping detectors.
- ❖ Purchasing Chromebooks for teachers to take home.
- ❖ Purchasing webcams for the teacher classrooms.
- ❖ Will be installing new intercom systems at Bearkatz Academy and Melbourne High School.
- ❖ Will be running fiber cable to new administration building, field house, and bus/maintenance shop at MHS.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A question and answer session was provided to all in attendance.