



# RUSSELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT



**PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS**

**2016**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# CREATING THE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR PATH



## PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Success is defined in different ways. To some, success is the attainment of wealth, position, or status. To others, success is defined by happiness and self-fulfillment. There is merit to all these definitions. It would be difficult to say a person was successful if they were not happy, certainly. On the other hand, a person who finds an occupation that brings them satisfaction and allows them to take care of their needs and the needs of their family has gone a long ways towards being a more contented person. It follows that this person is also more productive in the community, which benefits the community as a whole.

In other words, everyone is happier when people are successful in finding meaningful, productive occupations.

At Russellville School District, we see this as a main part of our mission. We “Educate” our students academically, “Equip” them with skills and abilities, and “Empower” them with the character traits and confidence to successfully compete in the world in which they will live and work. Our school district is a district of opportunity, one in which all types of students can find their niche. While one student’s interests may focus on engineering or medical professions, another may prefer skilled trades. Another student may prefer the arts, another may lean toward computer science, and yet another may be headed toward the world of business or education.

Meeting the needs of all these students requires many things. Quality facilities, specially trained staff, and varied curriculum offerings are fundamental. This is why you see at RSD four year programs beginning in the eighth grade in programs of study like biomedical sciences, pre-engineering, and computer science. You will also see the District sending our staff to trainings anywhere in the United States, if necessary, to bring back to our students the latest in methods specifically needed to prepare them for the occupations they want to pursue.

This publication outlines some of the latest efforts the District has undertaken in support of our students as they travel their individual pathway to their chosen careers. We will continue to care about them and prepare them for their eventual successes in life.

Yours in Education,

Randall W. Williams  
Superintendent  
Russellville School District

Russellville School District is committed to providing the best educational opportunities that lead our students to their personal and academic success. At RSD, we believe this means providing an environment that is healthy, safe, and well-maintained.

## SCHOOL HEALTH

RSD continues to believe that the health of our students plays an important role in their academic success. Our Coordinated School Health Program (CSH) consists of eight interactive components: Nutrition Services, Physical Education, Health Education, Health Services, Counseling and Support Services, Healthy School Environment, Health Promotion for Staff, and Family and Community Involvement. The District also continues to provide a registered nurse at every school.



## FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

RSD is currently in the process of adding six new classrooms to Oakland Heights Elementary. The addition features five new kindergarten classrooms and a new art room. This project is scheduled to be completed in February 2017.



## SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

RSD is currently in the process of adding ULockIt Barricade Devices to every door in the District. This extra layer of security will allow teachers and staff the ability to barricade their doors in the event of a lockdown. The ULockIt bolts are currently being installed in every school. This new addition is just another proactive safety initiative that has been added to the District.

Additionally, school resource officers at the high school and junior high, and a county officer that assists our county schools, offer increased security to parents and students as well as learning opportunities for the students in the area of law enforcement, anti-bullying, and drug education. Safety is also enhanced by the presence of a tornado safe shelter located on each campus and restricted access into each school.



# EXPLORING THEIR PATH



Russellville School District believes that it is never too early for students to begin exploring their career path. At the elementary level, students participate in a curriculum that exposes them to skills that are important to employers such as communication, teamwork, and analytical and problem solving skills. Students also begin learning about possible career options through career fairs and research projects.

## NEW SCIENCE CURRICULUM OFFERS MORE HANDS-ON LEARNING



This year, RSD adopted a new science curriculum for kindergarten through fifth grades entitled Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch. The program encourages students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. Students will engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, while learning to become collaborative problem solvers.

## NEW LITERACY CURRICULUM

This year, students in kindergarten through fourth grades are practicing their literacy skills with a new curriculum. Journeys is a comprehensive, research-based English Language Arts program that provides all students with a path to achieving rigorous standards with print and state-of-the-art digital components. Students are inspired by authentic, award-winning text that builds confidence with:

- Developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Strengthening the ability to analyze complex text
- Building the necessary skills for college and careers
- Learning vocabulary words
- Writing for understanding
- Spelling and word comprehension



## CAREER EXPLORATION

### CAREER STUDY

Students at Oakland Heights Elementary did a career study last spring. The school-wide study began with each class in first through fourth grades being assigned one of the 16 career clusters from the National Career Cluster Framework. The classes were then broken into teams, and each team chose a career in their cluster to study, do research on, and to create a PowerPoint or video presentation with their research findings to showcase to the whole school. Students in kindergarten studied community helpers such as doctors, dentists, police officers, and firefighters. At the end of the three weeks, the teachers also dressed in their graduation cap and gown or a t-shirt from their alma mater.

### CAREER FAIRS

Students at Center Valley Elementary have the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers at their annual Career Day. The half-day event begins with students showcasing their career goals with career day costumes during a parade. The students then meet a variety of community members who speak to them about their careers.

Each RSD school has a career focus program with speakers, projects, and job shadowing.



## CLUB TIME

Students at some of our elementary schools have the opportunity to participate in club times. These clubs allow the students to participate in activities that they are interested in while also practicing academic and social skills.

At London Elementary, students in grades first through fourth participate in club time two days per week for 30 minutes. The students get to choose from 12 different clubs such as Coding Club, Tiger Tamers Leadership Club, Garden Club, and Art Club.

Students at Center Valley Elementary in third and fourth grades participate in club time three times per week as an enrichment period. Students have seven clubs to participate in such as Fitness Club, Music Club, and Cougar Buddies.



# DEVELOPING THEIR PATH



Russellville School District assists our students with developing a plan for their future. For some, this plan may change as they progress through school, but for others, this plan sets them on a direct course for their future career.

## RJHS AND RHS CAREER PATHWAYS

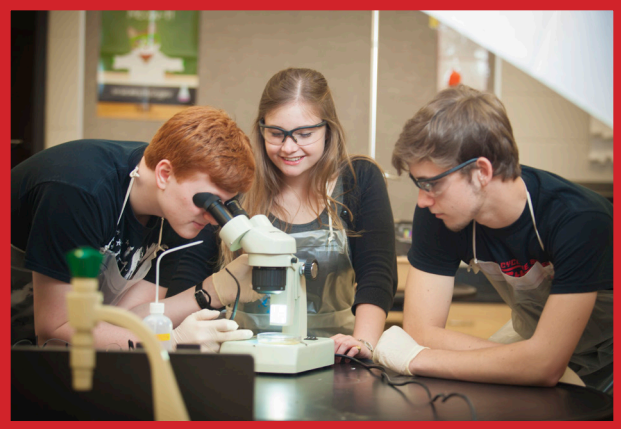
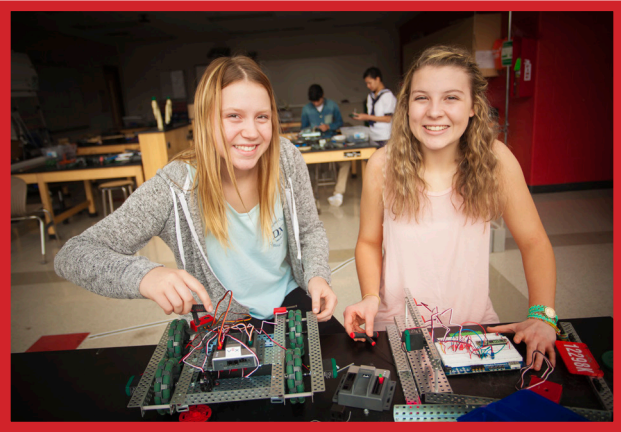
For the past three years, RSD has focused on college and career opportunities for our students, and at Russellville Junior High School and Russellville High School the concentration has been to help our students develop their future career path. At RJHS, students begin taking assessments to show what career paths they are interested in based on the 16 Career Clusters in the National Career Clusters Framework. Students and counselors coordinate classes at RHS that match those career clusters or match one of the 18 Career/Technical Education (CTE) pathways. Students in the career pathways classes have the opportunity to receive college credit through Arkansas Tech University Ozark campus and receive industry level certifications.

### PROJECT LEAD THE WAY PATHWAYS

RJHS and RHS offer students three Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pathways. PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges. Through our pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, students not only learn technical skills, but also learn to solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate, and collaborate.

Available pathways include:

- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Biomedical Science



## BUSINESS PATHWAYS

RJHS and RHS offer students six Business career pathways. Students in these pathways can become a Career and Technical Education Business Completer by taking the required coursework for one of the six programs of study, and will be presented with a certificate of completion.

Available pathways include:

- General Management
- Web Design and Digital Communications
- Accounting
- Securities and Investments
- Marketing Management
- Marketing Research

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS

The Arkansas Tech University Career Center, located on the RHS campus, offers nine pathways for students. Students who participate in one of these pathways have the opportunity to gain industry certification by national organizations and receive college credit hours, allowing our students to gain immediate employment or further their education after graduation.

Available pathways include:

- Automotive Service Technology
- Computer Engineering/Computer Information Systems
- Construction Technology
- Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement
- Culinary Arts
- Automation Science Technologies
- Health Science/Health Information Technology
- Welding Technology
- Cosmetology

# TOOLS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR PATH



At Russellville School District, we understand that every student is unique. That is why we provide the tools and support to assist our students and move them to the next level. From 1:1 computer technology at RHS to ACT Prep classes, we prepare our students for the world in which they will live and work.

## TEACHER CADET PROGRAM

Russellville High School has also started a Teacher Cadet class this year. The Teacher Cadet class allows RHS students who are interested in becoming a teacher to get an inside look into the profession. Students are learning about lesson planning, different learning styles of students, and teaching methods. Students will also be going out into schools to get field experience and will tour Arkansas Tech University’s Education Department. RSD is promoting teachers within our own student population in order to ensure quality educators for the future.



## LANGUAGE ACADEMY SUPPORTS STUDENTS ACQUIRING ENGLISH

This year, the District implemented a new program to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) services to our students that are acquiring English. The Language Academy is a cohort of students that receive their ESL services at the same time that they are receiving their mainstream content, such as algebra, US history, English, and biology. Language Academy I is a program that is specifically designed for the needs of newcomers to the United States. During the first year, the students will receive intensive English while not losing credit toward graduation. In Language Academy II, the students receive additional assistance in reading and writing. All of the Language Academy staff are ESL endorsed, or have recently attended the ESL Academy where they learned differentiation and instructional strategies geared toward English Language Learner (ELL) students.



## COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING

Russellville High School also holds an advisory period each day called “FACE-Time” (Finance and Career Education Time). During this period, students are taught guided lessons that focus on college and career skills such as applying for grants and scholarships, and how to research colleges. Students also work on their career development portfolio where they develop their plan for their future. RSD is also teaching students financial literacy.

# ACHIEVING THEIR PATH



At RSD, we believe that providing many opportunities for our students allows them to find an area where they truly excel. Each year, our students continue to achieve success inside and outside the classroom.

## NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Last year, RHS had two students named National Merit Finalists and one Semi-Finalist. Out of 329 students who graduated from RHS last year, approximately 84 percent planned to attend a four-year or two-year college this fall.

## RHS QUIZ BOWL STATE CHAMPIONS

The RHS Quiz Bowl team also made school history by winning the 6A Quiz Bowl State Championship last year. Paul Gray, one of two coaches for the RHS team, was also named Senior High Coach of the Year. The team went undefeated in the 6A State Tournament to win their spot at the Championship. Three RHS students also qualified for the 6A State All-Tournament Team.

## RECOGNITION AND REWARDS SCHOOLS

The Arkansas Public School Resource Center (APSRC) recognized three Russellville School District schools in the Fall of 2015. Russellville Junior High School (RJHS) was recognized as a School of Innovation, and Center Valley Elementary and Sequoyah Elementary schools were recognized for making an A in School Performance.

The Arkansas School Recognition and Rewards Program recognized Sequoyah Elementary School for the third year in a row in the Spring of 2016. Sequoyah Elementary was awarded a financial award based on high student performance for being ranked in the top five percent for performance.

## CHEERLEADERS 6A STATE RUNNER-UP

The RHS Cheerleaders were the 6A State runner-up. The team also competed at the Universal Cheerleaders Association Nationals High School Cheerleading Championships at Disney World in the World's Division where they placed 3rd and received a bronze medal. In the Medium Non-Tumbling Division, they placed 7th. Two of the RHS cheerleaders were also named All-Star athletes and got to cheer at the All-Star basketball and football games.

## 6A STATE RUNNERS-UP

The girls basketball team, girls soccer team, and boys soccer team all made appearances at 6A state tournaments last year. The Lady Cyclones basketball team finished the season 22-7 and as 6A state runners-up. The Lady Cyclones soccer team finished the season 11-9-1 and as 6A state runners-up, and the Cyclone boys soccer team finished 16-7-2 and as 6A state runners-up.





### **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:**

Morgan Barrett  
Chris Cloud  
Breanne Davis  
Allan George  
Jami Mullen  
Jeff Phillips  
Wesley White

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Randall Williams,  
Superintendent of Schools

Alene Bynum,  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Personnel and Instruction

Justin Robertson,  
CFO/Assistant to the Superintendent

### **RSD SCHOOL BOARD GOALS:**

1. RSD will be the "School of Choice" in our region for parents, students, and employees.
2. RSD will increase partnerships that create a unified community that values and supports education.
3. At RSD, all students will achieve a level of preparedness and readiness to reach their individual potential so that businesses and universities seek out RSD students.

RSD will cultivate a culture of high expectations at every level.

### **RSD BOARD MEETINGS:**

RSD is governed by a seven-member Board of Education. The School Board consists of seven members, elected by a combination of five single-member zones and two at-large positions by the qualified voters of the District. School Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building located at 220 West 10th Street. The meetings are open to the public. Parents, grandparents, and care-givers of RSD students and Russellville residents are encouraged to become more familiar with the governance of the School District.

The Russellville School District Annual Report to the Public is a publication of the Russellville School District.

In compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws, the Russellville School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in its employment and education practices. If you have questions regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers or paraprofessionals, you are encouraged to contact Mrs. Alene Bynum, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Instruction at 479.968.1306.

Le invitamos a que hable con la Mrs. Alene Bynum, si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre las capacitaciones profesionales de los maestros o asistentes de maestros de sus hijos.