



Arkansas School for the Deaf

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ASD Superintendent's Report

October 22, 2024

State of the School

Enrollment numbers: 106 (-1)

- High School- 33 (-2 from last month)
- Middle School- 20
- Lower School including ECC: 53 (+1 from last month)

Staffing Numbers:

- Full-time and extra help: 124
- Current Vacant Positions: Science Teacher (long-term sub, position reposted)

Restructuring Systems:

- David Burton has joined us as our Director of Campus Security.
- We are actively working to build a round-the-clock security team.

Academic Performance

Attendance Rates:

- Lower School: 89%
 - Illness has definitely contributed to lack of attendance this month.
- Middle School- 97%
- High School- 96%
 - Both 7th and 10th grades had perfect attendance for the month.
 - We are thrilled to see the support of our families to ensure that students are arriving on time and ready to learn each day!

Activities:

Lower School

- Rebecca White with Kids First from the ARES observed Lower School teachers teaching math utilizing the new Imaginative Math Curriculum. It was reported that Lower School teachers were using the new curriculum well. A marked improvement in confidence in utilization of the curriculum was observed and noted.
- The ASD/ASBVI librarian , Elizabeth Moody, has started serving Lower School successfully.
- Positive Building Culture & Climate - Staff are remembering to Be Kind.
- CPI Training - several staff attended training at the Co-Op in September.
- Lower School ASL Assessments planned
- Lower School staff have all completed School Based Seizure training
- All Lower School Teachers attended IEP Training
- All Lower School Educational staff attended ASD/ASBVI Professional Development regarding Growth Mindset
- Lower School has a new Educational Paraprofessional - Jayden Sprout

Middle School/High School

- IXL practices/WIN sessions/Individual feedback to take ownership of their scores.
- Curriculum (Reading 180) may have its benefits as it helps with the student's reading skills.
- The lack of mobile devices with the students – helped students to be more focused on the task. And using writing in diverse subjects to help the students use writing. The students struggled with the writing aspect.
- Teachers should be conscious/aware of utilizing reading/writing in their instruction strategy.

NWEA Map Summary:

Lower School

- Increased achievement from the 2nd percentile to the 9th percentile overall.
 - Grade 3: 1st percentile
 - Grade 4: 5th percentile
 - Grade 5: 17th percentile
- Growth for the 13 students who have been here since Fall of 2023 and taken the MAP: 44th percentile
- 2 students in Grade 4 and Grade 5 demonstrated growth above the 80th percentile.

Middle School

- increased achievement from the 3rd percentile to the 8th percentile.
 - Grade 6: 2nd percentile
 - Grade 7: 8th percentile
 - Grade 8: 19th percentile

- Growth for the 16 students who have been here since Fall of 2023 and taken the MAP: 76th percentile
- All students (total of 4) in Grade 8 demonstrated adequate growth.
- 3 out of 5 students in Grade 6 demonstrated adequate growth

High School

- increased achievement from the 6th percentile to the 9th percentile overall.
 - Grade 9: 11th percentile
 - Grade 10: 9th percentile
 - Grade 11: 8th percentile
 - Grade 12: 8th percentile
- Growth for the 33 students who have been here since Fall of 2023 and taken the MAP: 77th percentile
- Grades 10, 11, and 12 demonstrated adequate growth

Overall, achievement, while improved, is still drastically behind the expected standard for our students. Growth has increased; however, this may be due to the testing set up that was done this year where each student was individually tested. This will be amended for the next testing session as IEP accommodations were not followed by providing individual testing for each student.

Programs and Initiatives

Special Services:

Special Education, Food Services, Nursing, Student and Family Support Services, & Statewide Services

- Successful ROAR store days!
- Due process meetings and reviews are being held in a concerted effort to meet the requirements of the CAP.
- Increased numbers of students with combined vision and hearing loss are being identified and seen in the Low Vision Clinic at ASBVI.
- ASB students continue to dine in Breeding Cafeteria at ASD and LOVE it!

Food Services

All compliance requirements were met with the recent Health Inspection. New food options have been added to the menu this year including more “make your own” bars for pasta, tacos, etc.

Nursing

Flu Clinic was held on Oct 1st. 63 people were vaccinated. Trainings for medication administration, adrenal disorders, seizure protocols, and asthma/ epi pen/ g-tube feedings were provided on September 27th during the whole school PD day.

Admissions/Special Education

no new admissions in September, but two tours are set up for possible students. 23 various special education meetings were held. One student placement changed to Hospital Homebound due to long-term medical needs. Team developed plan and will be working directly with the family and school district of residence. This is new and an exciting addition to our services and supports offered to families!

Student and Family Support Services

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports were implemented and we held our first ROAR store of the school year. Students are receiving supports in both school and dorm activities in the evening. We are working to develop a robust residential life program. More info to come in November.

Staffing

New hires, retirements, and resignations

- New Hires: Jayden Sprout and Christian Ashcroft (para), Pam Conley & Linda Glenn (extra help)
- Retirements: None
- Resignations/Termination: Connie Jones (para)

Professional development opportunities and outcomes

- Health care training was provided by nursing staff
- CAP and IEP due process was provided by Special Education Staff
- Growth Mindset PD provided to all ASD/ASBVI staff.

Staff recognition and achievements

Roy DePriest has taken the lead to begin some large scale projects related to safety, energy efficiency, and maintenance. We are so grateful for his positive outlook and proactive contributions to our schools.

School Operations

Facilities and maintenance updates:

- Preventative maintenance is a continuing struggle as the department remains understaffed. Positions are posted.
- Microbial growth in Shibley was addressed on September 27th
- ASD had a sanitary sewer back up on October 4th. This was the result of baby wipes and rag pieces being flushed. It was cleared and a message reminder was sent to all staff.

Upcoming projects

- Replacement of hot water boiler tanks with tankless water heaters.
- Campus fencing to be installed.

Cost Savings

- Monthly Energy charge of \$85 for night watchers that are no longer in place but continue to be charged. (\$1105/annually)
- Condensing trash pickups to one larger dumpster at Breeding Cafeteria is a savings of \$1700/month or \$20,400/annually.
- LEDs are being placed as lights are needed to be replaced in all areas.

Transportation Department Updates:

- Transportation has had 23 requests for vehicles in the month of Sept. with 3 of them being out of state trips, 2 Tennessee and 1 to Ohio.
- The only challenge for the month has been the long weekend having a sports team flying in at 10:20 pm at night on Friday and having to be back at the airport at 4:45 am on Sunday. This happened to be the same weekend that ASBVI was going to Ohio.
- One golf cart was stolen in September, but was recovered by David Burton and LRPD.

Cost Savings

The weekend of Sept 13 had lots of sports and resulted in the cancellation of Rt4 for travel home. The was a savings of \$1605.

Technology Department Updates:

- Student ID badges were distributed and are in use for all students.
- All emergency information systems (Carousels) are in use.
- Camera systems and improved card reader door access panels are being investigated.

Security:

- Worked with IT to improve systems in the Security office ensuring that the Security team has everything that we need to effectively use the security technology available.
- Moved existing cameras to more strategic spots to try and minimize the dead zones with the cameras.
- Met with IT and Ubiquiti (Security hardware and software company). We discussed what our needs are, gathered floor plans and walked the campus to 100% map and provide security across the entire campus. The same system will be used for both Blind and Deaf campuses.
- Spoke with Ubiquiti and will be changing the Door Access (digital access pads) throughout the entire campus IOT streamline our technology and security assets. This system will also be a system that the school will be able to utilize and grow with when we have the future campus established.
- Collaboration with the LRPD Special Operations unit to begin coordinating response, tools provided and expectations of school security and Administration team.

- Began working on uniforms for the Security team in order for school staff, first responders and the public to identify the team very easily.
- Began initial discussions with Raptor Systems and evaluating current emergency Systems (RAVE) to ensure that the system that we are using meets or exceeds the school's needs.
- Reviewing and revising safety and security protocols across both campuses

Fiscal Management:

Title 1 funds were due to be spent by September 30th. We had quite a bit of funds left and rather than return them to the state, we were able to purchase 4 additional days of KidsFirst coaching for our staff.