



# Arkansas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

2600 W. Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72205 • (501) 296-1810 • Fax (501) 296-1831

Jacob Oliva  
Secretary of Education

Dr. Chris Barnes  
Interim Superintendent



## Board of Trustees Superintendent Report November 2024

### Dr. Chris Barnes, Interim Superintendent

This month, Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) has been focused on student learning amidst many extracurricular activities. Below are some major points showcasing **ASBVI PRIDE** for the current month:

### Highlights and Activities

1. Fall Festival (October 31): We ended the month of October with our Fall Festival, which provided students with festive games, activities, and treats in celebration of the Halloween season. Abigail Jones was instrumental in coordinating and organizing the event, and we had so much help from our staff and Friends of ASB.
2. Homecoming and Red Ribbon Week (November 4-8): Homecoming week coincided with Red Ribbon Week, reinforcing ASBVI's commitment to a healthy, drug-free lifestyle while celebrating school spirit. Highlights of the week included:
  - Dress-Up Days: Students expressed their creativity and enthusiasm each day with themed outfits, embracing the spirit of Homecoming.
  - Student/Alumni Goal Ball Game: A friendly yet competitive Goal Ball game between current students and alumni brought excitement and school pride. Our student team came out victorious!
  - Homecoming Celebration: This year's Homecoming court crowned Bryson Selby as Homecoming King and Allison Howard as Homecoming Queen. The event included a special dance for secondary students.
  - ASBVI Homecoming Parade: The week culminated in our annual Homecoming Parade, featuring vibrant floats and student performances that reflected the energy and pride of our ASBVI community.
  - Special Thanks: Our Homecoming and Red Ribbon Week activities were a resounding success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alicia Reddick, Barbara Cole, Brian Tanner, Debbie Chambers, the Friends of ASBVI, and



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countless others who generously contributed their time and energy. Their support made this week truly memorable for our students.

3. Students of the Month: We are excited to highlight our students of the month
  - September
    - Elementary: Joseph Henry
    - Secondary: Zariah Hamilton
  - October
    - Elementary: Adriana Taylor
    - Secondary: Allison Howard
4. Upcoming Events
  - Thanksgiving Meal & Turkey Trot: On Thursday, November 21, students, staff, and parents will gather for our annual Thanksgiving Meal, followed by the Turkey Trot—a much-anticipated event combining wellness and seasonal cheer.
  - Thanksgiving Break: ASBVI will observe Thanksgiving Break from November 23 through December 2, which will provide students and staff with a well-deserved rest.

## Administrative and Compliance Updates

1. Arkansas Application (AR App) Approval: ASBVI's AR App process has successfully completed and received approval from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) through Indistar. This milestone demonstrates our commitment to meeting state standards for accountability and program development.
2. Internal Control Audit: In compliance with requirements for all state agencies, ASBVI completed its Internal Control Audit, which was submitted to ensure our functional and fiscal procedures are managed with integrity and oversight in order to minimize and control risk in all operational and financial areas.

## Building Project Developments

Significant progress has been made on the building project. The architect team has been moving forward on the feedback from stakeholders in order to develop an initial



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plan. Construction partners are now on board and are conducting preliminary preparations for demolition, including asbestos abatement. The architect team is now ready to receive feedback from staff on spacing options in early December. During these sessions, school personnel will engage with the team to review space layouts, discuss design options, and share preferences, ensuring that the project meets the specific needs of blind and visually impaired students.

## **Upgraded Sound System in ASBVI Cafeteria**

Thanks to the generosity of the ASB Alumni Association, the cafeteria's sound system has been completely replaced. This upgrade greatly enhances our audio capabilities, improving sound quality for events and gatherings in this central space. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Alumni Association for their continued support of our school community.