



Arkansas School for the Deaf

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Jacob Oliva
Secretary

K. Nicole Walsh
Superintendent

Board of Trustees

ASD Superintendent's Report

November 19, 2024

State of the School

Enrollment numbers: 104

- High School- 34
- Middle School- 20
- Lower School including ECC: 50

Restructuring Systems:

- ASD has hired a full-time staff interpreter. This will be huge in helping meet our needs and cut down on expenses.
- We have begun working to shared some services between our ASD and ADBVI cooking staff.

Academic Performance

Attendance Rates:

- Lower School: 93%
- Middle School: 85%
- High School- 92%

Activities:

Lower School

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- Halloween/Fall Fun
- Homecoming Spirit Week Participation
- ROAR Store
- Kids First – IM Math Coaching

- Legislator Visit – Representative Fite visited October 17. It was an awesome visit. She was able to see Lower School Literacy in Action. Rep. Fite saw active use of Foundations for Literacy being used in K-2.
- Lower School Case Manager PD
- Lower School Go Guardian Training
- Principal KaAnn Varner visited Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind with Superintendent Nicole Walsh, ASBVI Principal Lori Cole and ASD/ASBVI Director of Security, David Burton.
- Air Quality Improved in Lower School
- Report Cards/IEP Updates
- LS Behavior Team Meetings

Middle School/High School

- College Exploration Week at ASD
- 7th Grade - ARS Presentation - Holly Ketchum, VR
- 8th Grade - UAPTC South Campus Tour
- 9th Grade - Trio Presentation- Leah Irvin
- 10th Grade - College Application Clinic
- 11th Grade - Innovation Hub- LS/MS/HS at Leopard Spot
- Blue Shirt Day to honor Bullying Prevention Awareness Day on October 9
- White Cane Day on October 15. The high school students and teachers went to celebrate White Cane Day with ASBVI students. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience being a blind person using the white cane to guide by following the sound/feel of drums. The ASBVI students served as their guides. Many thanks to ASBVI for having us.
- Our juniors and seniors had a meeting with the Josten representative to make some selections for their class rings and graduation cards/caps/gowns on October 18
- The end of 1st 9 weeks was October 18. Grade/progress reports came out on October 29
- Red Ribbon Spirit Week October 21-24
- Simpson Academy of Cosmetology Tour October 22
- LEA Academy in Hot Springs October 24
- Parent and Teacher Conference on October 25, for Middle and High School students.
- Arkansas Elite Welding Academy Tour October 31
- Derrick Jones, an ASD senior, has committed to playing baseball at ASU Three Rivers. His Signing Day will be on November 14 at Sylvan Hill High School.
- High School SkillUSA Meadow Farms Fundraiser to support the expenses for next spring's Arkansas SkillUSA competition in Hot Springs.
- The Arkansas School for the Deaf and the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired are participating in an initiative to give our middle and high school students a FREE public library card with the North Little Rock Public Library System! This card will allow students to access

various digital resources like Overdrive, Libby, and Hoopla. Students will sign up online once a permission slip has been filled out and signed by a parent or legal guardian. Our librarian, Mrs. Moody, will store library card numbers for students for as long as the student is in attendance at ASD/ASBVI.

- ASD robotics team was able to successfully execute an autonomous program with their robot and score 5 points. They were the only team to score points in the autonomous programming category! The autonomous score is how they will qualify for the National NRSC Deaf and Hard of Hearing Tournament. The ASD robotics team also beat their personal best from their last competition on October 17. Two more local competitions will take place on November 21, and December 5, at the Bryant HS. If they qualify, the team will compete in February at the NRSC tournament in Georgia.

Programs and Initiatives

Special Services:

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

- Due process meetings and reviews are being held in a concerted effort to meet the requirements of the CAP. A meeting with DESE was held to review CAP requirements.
- Increased numbers of students with combined vision and hearing loss continue to be identified and seen in the Low Vision Clinic at ASBVI.
- Special education services will be combined for ASD and ASBVI.

Food Services

- October Meals Served as of October 30: Breakfast 1378, Lunch 1568
- Days Served: 20
- Eligibility Numbers as of October 30: Free 53, Reduced 16, and Paid 41
- Gina Scroggins resigned as of November 1
- Potstickers were added to the menu with the Korean BBQ and the students loved them! We've had several events throughout the month which our students and the visiting teams enjoyed ASD's school nutrition food.
- Commodity Annual Audit

Nursing

A shot clinic was held in October, administering COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Kavanaugh Pharmacy provided the immunizations.

Admissions/Special Education

Special Education & Admissions:

- 1 ASD Tour has been set up for potential students.
- 2 new ASD Admissions this month.

IEP (Individualized Education Program) Updates for October 1-31 Activity:

- 11 IEP Meetings
- 6 Existing Data Reviews (EDRs)
- 7 Evaluation Programming Conference w/ IEP development
- 0 Manifestation Determination Reviews (MDRs)

Significant Changes:

- Annual IEPs are to be drafted in SEAS or SpEdTrack two calendar weeks prior to the meeting for review by the Special Education Supervisor. An IEP draft will be sent to the parents for review no later than 3 days prior to the meeting to allow parents time to review and participate in the IEP meeting.
- The special education departments for ASBVI and ASD will be combined.

Student Support:

- Hospital Homebound services are being implemented for a middle school student at ASD. The middle school team is working to provide a hybrid mix of school work and virtual instruction for special education and general education needs.

Professional Development:

- Participated in the Arkansas Transition Conference in Hot Springs. Casey Brown picked a team to work on the ASD Transition goal for this year.
- The Special Education Supervisor will represent ASD at the LEA Academy sponsored by DESE-SEU. Stacy and Brandy attended sessions together on the first day of the conference. On the second day, Stacy attended the legal keynote to be updated on legal hot topics in special education this year.

Challenges and Successes:

Challenges

- Getting correct reports for the CAP from eSchool and the accreditation portal.
- Two local district bus routes are consistently late to ASD (arriving between 8:00-8:15 after breakfast).
- One local district leaves an hour early every day due to one of the two students having scheduled therapies in their town, which is not part of the student's IEP and affects another student's attendance.

Successes

- Cleared more CAP items with SEA, Kristin, from DESE-SEU. All additional pulls are completed, and student-level corrections should be cleared during the November 8 visit.
- The first week of the combined Special Education Department was a success. Amanda and Debbie worked together to merge the two Special Education meeting calendars into one for easier scheduling and viewing. Case Managers will always know what is scheduled well in advance unless an emergency meeting is scheduled, which is rare.

- Weekly meetings with the ASD Lead Speech Therapist to share information have been very beneficial.

Student and Family Support Services

This month, the school counselor has been actively communicating with parents and staff by sending out an October newsletter about PBIS. The Behavioral Specialist has also reached out to two different sets of parents to provide support for their students. In terms of counseling and support services, the school counselor sees at least 10 students a week, not including those who drop in unexpectedly. Additionally, the counselor and the Speech therapist collaborate to conduct SEL/WIN sessions in classes eight times a week. The RPI mental health therapist visits the campus once a week and sees six students during each visit.

The counselor has established a community partnership with the Arkansas Food Bank, from which she orders food weekly. She prepares bags of food for about 30 students to take home on weekends, ensuring they have access to nutritious meals.

Statewide Services

- 24 Developmental Therapy Sessions
- 1 Consult
- 4 evaluations
- 3 public school observations
- 11 IFSP conferences

Enrollment Numbers

- 0-3 - Total of 26 birth to three families. 19 are fully in the FCS database on an IFSP, 5 are in the process of establishing an IFSP, and 2 are at EIDT. We serve those but do not bill for services.
- 3-5 - Currently serving 20 families from ages 3 to 5 years old.
- K-12 Statewide – Since August, the team has provided four classroom consults. The department continues to provide ASL Classes on Monday for families

Related Services (Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy)

The therapy team continues to grow in their understanding of our deaf blind population. They are developing tactile schedules to keep the students engaged and ensure understanding of daily activities. The audiologist coordinates and transports students to the low vision clinic on ASBVI campus.

The team provides therapy for more than 60% of the population on campus. The audiologist continues to manage equipment and testing.

Staffing

New hires, retirements, and resignations

- New Hires: David Burton, Public Safety Commander and Clayton Higgins, Staff Interpreter
- Retirements: None
- Resignations/Termination: Charles Mosshart, Education Paraprofessional

School Operations

Technology Department Updates:

- Consolidation of Fiber Network needed in order to begin the new building project
- Addition of Tyler Pfeffer to ADE staff
- Wayne Morrow for 25 years of service
- One of our ADCC students is working as IT Intern
- CoPilot licenses now available to Teachers and Staff
- Upcoming upgrades for Lower School students for touchscreen equipment with the assistance of grant funding
- Upcoming project to revamp the audio and visual technology in the Tornado Shelter so that it can function as a permanent solution for a conference meeting space
- Saying goodbye to Rasnick, as IT is doing a final sweep of the building to get ready for demolition

Security:

- Now that our fiber optics network has been updated, our security department will be able to begin upgrading our security camera system on campus.
- Locks on exterior doors are being upgraded all around campus. These are specialized locks with controlled access through our head of security.