

CALICO ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2019

5:30 p.m.

U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks, and Superintendent's Report	Jerry Skidmore
Counselor/Testing Program Report	Stephanie King
Gifted/Talented Program Report	Kish Pool
Parent Center Facilitator	Lisa Cullen
Federal Programs Report	Mike Mason
Safety Report	Mark Stephen
Elementary School Report	Kim Thomas
Secondary School Report	Anita Nordrum
Questions	All
Dismissal	Jerry Skidmore

Annual Public Meeting 10-15-19

The Calico Rock School District Annual Report and public meeting was held on October 22, 2018. School Board President Rex Whitfield opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Then, reports were heard from faculty and administration regarding programs and activities at the Calico Rock School District. Superintendent, Jerry Skidmore began by reporting that the district meets the standards set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education including certification of faculty, either by traditional methods or Alternative Licensure Plans (ALP) approved by the department of education. The district uses Open DNS filtering system by Cisco as an internet filter and the district is an asbestos free district with an abatement plan on file in the maintenance department files.

As far as technology is concerned, the district's internet filtering system is provided by the state of Arkansas and an antivirus program is purchased by the district. We continue to work on improving our systems and connectivity as well as security. Keep in mind that security is not limited to the internet. We are also in the process of installing more cameras on both campuses that can be accessed by administrators only and the buses have cameras on them. Drivers can mark an incident by pressing a button on the dash which is very helpful when dealing with discipline issues that occur on the buses and if an intruder enters the bus they are on camera automatically.

The board of directors consist of Rex Whitfield, Chris Brandon, Patty Conyers, Jay Knight and Jennifer Brickle. A first year board member is required to get 9 hours of professional development by December 31st of the following year. The initial 6 hours of training is provided in the New Board Member Institute by the Arkansas School Board Association. State law requires board members to get 6 hours of professional development annually thereafter.

We would like everyone to welcome new personnel this year: Chelsie Moss – District Secretary, Tyler Williams 4th grade teacher, Candi Penland – classroom aide, Alexa Williams – Special Ed. teacher, and Brianna Ritter– janitor.

Our district has a wellness committee who meets quarterly to discuss ways to improve the overall health of employees and students through nutrition and physical activity. The chair person for the wellness committee is Amber Clinkingbeard. We also have a parental involvement program that provides parents with information on how to best help their child succeed educationally. This program is facilitated by Lisa Cullen an elementary teacher.

On the financial side, the district currently has a bonded indebtedness of approximately \$3,015,000. It was last restructured in 2012 and the restructuring of that debt created a savings of \$437,796 over the life of the loan and the bulk of the savings was experienced in the first three years. The outstanding interest rate is 2.8%. The loan was obtained to pay for the high school, the gym and fine arts building, elementary classrooms, elementary cafeteria, elementary band room and auditorium. The annual payment for the 2019-20 school year will be \$275,521 and Stephens Incorporated in Little Rock is the financial agent for our district. Our debt to assessment ratio is 8.9% which very close to the state average.

The district has 41 certified/licensed employees plus 3 administrators and an approximate payroll of \$1,706,401. There are 35 classified employees with an approximate payroll of \$656,922 and Title 1,

Medicaid and ARMAC funds are used to pay \$169,952 in both licensed and classified salaries. Last year the legal ending balance was \$739,323 in the operating fund.

Our food service is provided by Opaa, a food management company. Opaa is a company that contracts with schools to provide meals for students, staff and guest. However, the Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit requires guest to have cash on hand and pay at the point of service. By contracting with a food service management company (Opaa) we are able to provide more options at lunch and breakfast, and a food bar with fruit and vegetables including a salad at lunch. Another difference is more cooking from scratch than in previous years and a monetary advantage to contracting with Opaa is their purchasing power.

Our K-2 students are ranked #2 in the Arkansas in reading readiness growth. Last year we are utilized two new curriculums on the elementary campus. One is the Wonders literacy curriculum. It worked so well that this year we have included the iReady literacy diagnostic software program. It will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of our students and provide an added resource for teachers to target and improve reading abilities of students. As always our hope is to have all students on grade level by the time they reach third grade. At which point, they need to be reading to learn, not learning to read. Two years ago we implemented the Apples Connections program which is a multi-sensory evidence based program that comes highly recommended by the Arkansas Department of Education to meet the challenges set forth in their Rise Arkansas expectations. The Apples Connections program helps facilitate learning in all aspects of literacy, not just reading. All K-6 literacy teachers have now been trained in Apples Connections.

The Ready Math is the second curriculum that was new last year. "*Ready Mathematics* helps address the emphasis on conceptual understanding through reasoning, modeling, and discussion that explore the structure of mathematics while also developing students' procedural fluency. The lessons in Ready Mathematics use a research-based, proven-effective, discourse-focused instructional model with a balance of conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application to build confidence and mastery of the Mathematics Standards." It also comes with a diagnostic component (iReady) to focus on strengths and weaknesses of students in order to build on and remediate specific skills.

The Izard County Sheriff's substation remains on the elementary campus providing an extra layer security for our campus and community. We have prepared a room on our elementary campus to be used as a police substation, giving the sheriff's office 24/7 access to grounds and facilities. By doing this, response time to an event on campus and the community will be reduced significantly and it will create an atmosphere of safety and security that will deter criminal activity in the area.

The division of Facilities and Transportation inspects our buildings twice a year and each time their findings are minimal. They are very complimentary and tell us how clean the facilities are in comparison to other schools they visit. Our facilities are well maintained by a very capable staff who clean and repair daily to make sure the students of Calico Rock are provided with an environment that is conducive to learning. We have a six and ten-year plan on file at the Department of Facilities and Transportation with the Arkansas Department of Education. It includes the preventive maintenance and repair plans for our facilities and plans for improvement as well as any new construction being considered. At this time our student growth doesn't indicate a need for any new construction. In other words we have room for growth. The department is very helpful in making arrangements for funding of new construction in our district. It is based on a wealth index that determines how much we would

receive from the state for new construction. However, our facilities are more than adequate at this time. Although we did resurface the high school parking lot this summer but it was paid solely from school reserves in the building fund. As always the public is welcome to suggest changes and provide input regarding facilities throughout the year. If you have questions, comments or suggestions at this time please feel free to do so. (No one had any at the time so we moved on through the agenda).

I would like to thank all of the patrons of the Calico Rock School District for their support and invite everyone to the extra-curricular activities and support the Pirates. Thank you.

For more information visit our website at <http://pirates.k12.ar.us>

The 2018-19 school year was our 4th year to take ACT Aspire for grades 3-10. We are very happy with the growth that we saw from the year before to this year. District wide, English was our highest scores for proficiency at 75% for the district. Over the last two years, we have grown 14% as a district in math proficiency- 7% each year resulting in 57% proficiency. We also grew 6% in reading and 7% in science for proficiency of 47% and 49% respectively. When we examined individual student scores from last year and this year, we saw a 70% growth across all tests taken by our students. We have implemented even more changes in curriculum this year to improve scores even more.

The school report cards came out last week with the high school achieving an A rating and the elementary achieving a B rating. Both campuses showed growth compared to the ESSA Score from the previous year with the high school having a growth of 8 points in the ESSA overall score. The elementary showed improvement in both achievement and growth within the ESSA rating. With the implementation of new curriculum at the elementary, we expect to continue to see these numbers rise. We are putting a focus on attendance on both campuses as that impacts our overall score as well. Both school ratings are higher than the state average with the high school being in the top 10 in the state in the high school division.

We are utilizing the interim tests again this year for our students to become familiar with format and question types. We will complete 3 interim tests throughout the year for all grade levels before the summative testing in the spring. These interim results are used by teachers to guide instruction and check on progress throughout the year.

For the 3rd year, K-2 is taking the Renaissance Early Literacy and Star Reading/Math for their formal assessment. 3 testing windows throughout the year are required by the state, but our teachers utilize the program between windows so it is easier to keep a check on student progress. We were named 2nd in the state for reading readiness growth over the past 4 years. At the end of last year, we had 95% of Kindergarten and 1st grade students at or above reading level.

Each year, our 11th grade students take the ACT and the ASVAB in the spring at no cost to them. Research shows the more times the ACT is taken, the higher the scores will be. We want to expose all of our students to the test before the state required testing. Students have access to different resources for test preparation. The ASVAB tests their knowledge in different areas so the results can direct their path for future careers whether in or out of the military.

Last year, we began work on student success plans at the high school level. These are being worked on during our new 20 minute advisory time. It will include information about each individual student in the areas of assessments, career information, interests and academic plans. To help with this, the state purchased a College and Career Ready tool for each district. We went with the Kuder system that students can use to explore careers based on interest, skills confidence and work values. Included with the state contract was Kuder Galaxy for the younger grades that we will begin to implement into computer lab class so students begin to be exposed to careers at a young age in an appropriate format.

The state has released the G.U.I.D.E. for Life which outlines 5 skills for personal success at each grade level band. The principles are growth, understanding, interaction, decisions and empathy. For each principle, it tells the skills the kids should be exhibiting with the end goal being with when our students graduate, they will be more productive and competent citizens. We will be using this as a guide when looking at character and social emotional lessons.

Report to the Public for GT 19-20

4-12 Grade GT qualifying/selection committee consists of

Kish Pool- GT Coordinator

Kim Thomas- Elementary Principal

Bailey Whiteaker- 4th grade teacher

Johnathan Baker- High school and Elementary school Art teacher

Katie Brown- High school and Elementary school Music teacher

4-12 Grade GT advisory committee consists of

Kish Pool- GT Coordinator

Kim Thomas- Elementary Principal

Bailey Whiteaker- 4th grade teacher

Leslie Sanders- GT parent

Tony and Natasha Kearbey- GT parents

5-8 Grade GT students will be participating in the Y.E.S. Arkansas (Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase), the top 25 Announcement will be over Christmas break, Calico Rock GT has had a top 25 state finishing team the past two years.

At the end of the 18/19 school year, 4-12 Grade GT students discussed ideas for learning goals, extended classroom trips, and community service projects. We do have plans to attend the Titanic in Branson although a date has not been put on the calendar yet. They will also be participating in creating gifts for our Veteran's Day Honor Ceremony to be held on Friday, November 8th, from 9:00-11:00 am. All of the 7-12GT students will participate in the ceremony in some way. We have invited a guest speaker, Mr. Roy Barree, to come and present and teach the GT students how to fold the American Flag and provide them some insight to his own Veteran story.

GT students will attend the Quiz Bowl, Chess Tournament, and Spelling Bee.

The Calico Rock GT program had a state audit during the 2018-2019 school year and we are pleased to announce that we passed the audit with flying colors! Attached is the letter that we received from the state auditor, Connie Storey.

Currently there are 13 students in grades 4-6, 12 students in 7-8 and 28 students in 9-12 that participate in GT.

4-6 Grade GT students receive the state minimum required 150 minutes of services each week.

7-12 Grade GT students receive the state minimum required 30 minutes of services each month.

The GT coordinator is available to the GT students above the required minimum, as needed.

Calico Rock Gifted and Talented Technical Assistance Visit Results

Tue, Jul 23, 1:21 PM

Dear Superintendent Skidmore,

The Gifted and Talented Program of the Calico Rock School District received a Technical Assistance Visit from the Arkansas Department of Education, Office of Gifted & Talented and Advanced Placement on January 16, 2019. The information contained in this report reflects the findings regarding your district's compliance with Arkansas rules governing services for gifted and talented students K-12.

After reviewing your district's implementation of state rules governing educational programs for gifted and talented students through documentation submitted prior to the visit and documentation reviewed onsite, the district's compliance with said requirements has been verified. The Calico Rock School District is commended for being in **compliance** in each of the following areas:

Community Involvement
Staff Development
Personnel
Identification
Program Options
Curriculum
Evaluation

Among the strengths noted in the Calico Rock School District's Gifted Program were: 1) the efforts of the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Kish Pool, in addressing the unique needs of gifted and talented students and building relationships to connect with those students and support them; 2) the strong administrative support for the GT program as evidenced by the facilities, schedule, and technology available to the program; 3) the parental and community support for the GT program as evidenced by willingness to volunteer or share resources to help with gifted students; 4) the strong programs: school-wide science room k-12, imbedded enrichment time for all GT identified students, and K-6 Wonder Literacy Program available to identified GT students and others; 5) the use of social media to inform the public/ parents about the program along with information about GT services on the district website; and 6) the strong support for services to identified secondary students through Pre-AP/ AP classes and concurrent credit courses and other offerings meeting student interests.

Although the Calico Rock School District meets state standards for Gifted and Talented Programs, I am making **two recommendations** for enhancing the effectiveness of your district's GT program.

Recommendation 1: Continue to improve the quality of differentiation in curriculum for identified secondary students by providing professional development about how to differentiate for GT students in the classroom as well as providing resources for GT coordinator to meet with all identified secondary gifted students for academic and social-emotional support.

Recommendation 2: Continue the positive work being done to identify low-income students in the district for GT services including staff development about under-represented populations and allowing GT coordinator to attend professional development at coop, AGATE, NAGC, or World conferences.

It is my desire that the technical assistance visit process assist your district in assessing the current status and future direction of services provided to gifted and talented students within your district.

I extend my thanks to you and Kish Pool for working to establish an effective program of services to meet the needs of gifted and talented students in your district. Feel free to share the results of the Technical Assistance Visit and to contact my office if we can be of additional assistance. I look forward to visiting your district in the future.

Sincerely,

Connie Storey

Public School Program Advisor

Office of Gifted & Talented and Advanced Placement

Learning Services

Division of Elementary & Secondary Education

Four State Capitol Mall, Slot 28

Little Rock, AR 72201-1071

Phone: 501-682-4224

FAX: 501-682-4220

Connie.Storey@arkansas.gov

www.arkansased.gov

Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator Report for Annual Public Meeting 10/15/19

The Parent Volunteer Group usually meets the 2nd Monday of each month. The parents that attended the first meeting of this year chose to meet around 3:30 pm this year. If parents need a later time or different night, that can be arranged. The Family & Community Engagement Facilitator sends out a monthly calendar to the elementary students and puts it on school website for the high school parents.

The Parent Center is open during the School Days and Monday nights until 5:00 p.m. Lisa Cullen can be contacted if a parent needs a later time or different day to utilize the Parent Center.

Parent Nights in the form of Math and/or Literacy, Science, Social Studies, Financial Aid and other special items will also be held throughout the school year.

The Center has many games to build Math, Literacy, Science, and Social Studies skills for all age students. Also, there are many parenting aides in the form of books, pamphlets, videos, and DVDs.

The Parent Group has raised money to go towards playground equipment, sanitizing sanitations in both cafeterias, t-shirts for all students and employees, a banner for the Special Olympics and the Trap Team as well as a canopy tent to use at sporting events. We are pricing pea gravel for the playgrounds since the mulch has caused so many injuries and sticks to students clothing.

The parent group will have some items for sale during some of the holidays (Halloween, valentines, etc.), as well as the Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe in December, and the Spring Carnival to raise funds.

The group held a Chili Supper/Fall Festival on Friday October 11th, and will also host a Spring Carnival later in the school year.

The next Parent Volunteer group meeting will be November 4, 2019 at 3:30 and 5:30 in the cafeteria at the High School.

**Technology/Federal Funds
Mike Mason**

The Calico Rock School District purchased chromebooks this summer so that all classrooms at the elementary (k-6) have the ability to utilize online assessments and supplemental learning programs such as iready, Scholastic Library Publishing, Learning Ally, Renaissance Learning, etc. in grades k-6.

High School has a cart of chromebooks in each math, english and science classroom for them to utilize their online programs also.

The district will continue to monitor the technology that we have and replace or upgrade as needed.

The school will continue to use OpenDns web filter which is a cloud based Cisco filtering system

The district also updated the school website to a Responsive Web Design which means that basically it can be viewed in a format that is compatible to almost all devices whether it be a computer, tablet or cell phone.

In an effort to keep the community informed of school activities, the district will use:

- for important events like school closings or event reschedules, the district will use the schools website which is hosted by Brooks Jeffery Marketing in Mountain Home where you can click on the sign up logo in the top right corner and sign up for text or email alerts.
- Both campuses will also continue to use Facebook

Federal and State funding down about \$39,000 from last year

It is crucial for small schools like us to have those free and reduced forms turned in each year because there is a big difference between 70% of the population being free and reduced meals and us falling below the 70% threshold. We hit like 71% this year and last year. Funding drastically decreases when you fall below.

NSL now called ESA (Enhanced Student Achievement Funding)

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) is now Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESA)

Title IV will be used to increase the implementation into STEM and will also be used to promote school safety and drug free.

Title VI is all spent on salaries.

Federal Funding for 19-20

Fund	17-18	18-19	18-19 Carryover	19-20 121,769.5	19-20 carryover
Title I (6501)	\$139,218.93	\$ 135,386.22	\$ 10,425.15	7	12,462.76
Title II (6756)	\$17,135.67	\$ 12,995.34	\$ -	15,158.09	0
Title IV (6786)	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,452.82	10,000	0
Title VI (6782)	\$18,973.59	\$ 20,247.00		28,165	
NSL (2281)(1281)	\$263,676.00	\$ 304,790.00		270,107	24,660.20
PD (2223)	\$11,126.00	\$ 11,010.00		10,183	
ale (1275) (2275)	0	\$ -		0	
				455,382.6	
	\$460,130.19	\$ 494,428.56	\$ 15,877.97	6	37,122.96

Total Title I 134,232.3

294,767.2
Total NSL 0

492,505.6
Total Fed 2

School Resource Officer Safety Report

As the SRO I am a Deputy Sheriff on duty at the school for all school activities on campus. I am also a Captain on the Pineville Fire Department, an Arkansas Commissioned School Security Officer (CSSO) Instructor and the High School Criminal Justice teacher.

I am an American Heart Association CPR/AED/First Aid/Basic Life Support Instructor and all Seniors receive CPR training prior to graduation. Administrators and Coaches maintain current CPR/AED/First Aid certifications and CPR/AED/First Aid training is available for all school district employees.

We have implemented "Bleeding Control" training for 9-12th grades to adhere to the new Arkansas law requiring it. *However*, we have provided Bleeding Control training to the High School Criminal Justice students for the past four years.

We have purchased individual Bleeding Control kits for every classroom and a large bleeding control kit for the High School and another one for the Elementary. We have an AED in each building on campus and we have purchased an additional AED in a portable case for all away events.

The additional lights that were added to the parking lot at the high school have been very effective. Students have stated that after ball games they felt a lot safer walking to their cars. The IT department has continually improved the camera systems as well.

I conduct the emergency drills for the High School, Elementary and Preschool. We conduct Fire drills, Tornado drills and Active Shooter/Killer drills.

I also manage the student Fire Marshal Program for the High School and Elementary School. We currently have (6) Elementary Fire Marshals and (12) High School Fire Marshals.

I provide "Character Education and Anti Bullying" to 5th and 6th grades by reading the book series "The Warrior Kid." I provide additional Anti Bullying presentations to all K-6 grades throughout the year.

I am the club sponsor and Chief Instructor for KIAP (Kids Initiative ALERT Program.) KIAP provides "Character Education and Anti Bullying" training, physical fitness and self-defense to 1st-12th grades. KIAP does this through training in the martial arts, with no cost to the student. Currently KIAP has over 40 students with more signing up throughout the year.

Each year I conduct a "Women's Safety Awareness" class for 12th grade girls. At the end of the class each student is given a "Drink Test Kit" for detecting common "date-rape" drugs.

We are constantly working with outside agencies for crisis response for all emergencies:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| -Izard County Sheriff's Dept | -Calico Rock Fire Dept |
| -Pineville Fire Dept | -Arkansas State Police |
| -Arkansas Game and Fish | -Calico Rock Medical Center |
| -Izard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) | |
| -Arkansas Dept of Health (Most recently Margeret Yancey conducted several | |

anti-vaping presentations at the High School.)

In addition to everything else, the Izard County Sheriff's Dept has a Sub-Station in the Elementary school and I coordinate with the Sheriff's K9 Unit for random inspections of all school facilities.

Deputy MARK A. STEPHEN

Report to the Public 2019

Kim Thomas, Elementary School Principal

The school year is off to an excellent start. The faculty and staff of Calico Rock Elementary, with the support of parents and community, believe that all students can and will learn.

I would like to thank all of our patrons, parents and teachers. Without each one of you our school would not be as successful as it is...

Students at Calico Rock Elementary receive instruction in the core academic subjects of literacy, math, science, and social studies. They also receive instruction in physical education, health, art, music, enrichment, research and media skills, as well as social emotional, conflict resolution, character education and anti-bullying.

The Arkansas Standards are designed to prepare students to succeed in an educational learning environment. The standards are evidence- and research-based, aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and hands-on skills, and are informed by other top performing countries. They were developed in consultation with teachers and parents from across the country, so they are also realistic and practical for the classroom. The standards focus on core conceptual understandings and processes, thus enabling teachers to take the time needed to teach concepts and processes and to give students the opportunity to really master them. With students, parents and teachers all on the same page and working together for shared goals, we can help ensure students make progress each year and graduate from school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and the country.

All teachers are Arkansas Qualified and all but two of the elementary staff is certified at this time. Tyler Williams is a 5-8 Licensed Arkansas teacher in the areas of Math, Science and Social Studies. He is working on an approved ALP and will be fully certified after passing his Praxis test in Literacy. Alexa Williams is working on her Special Education degree and licensure.

The school board graciously allowed us to purchase two new curriculums last year Ready Math and iReady (for RTI) and Wonders (Reading/Literacy) and both have been very successful. iReady Math and Literacy are being used this year to assess and monitor student growth and as an RTI resource to ensure that All students are learning to fullest of their potential.

After school activities include; Dance, Pee Wee basketball, KIAP, Lego League, Girl Scouts and tutoring.

New this year is Elementary Beta 4-5.

The elementary houses grade K-6. We have by far the greatest staff anywhere!! This year's staff includes: Kindergarten: Mrs. Lisa Roderick, and Mrs. Susan Cowgill; First Grade: Ms. Lisa Cullen, and Mrs. Amy Clinkingbeard Second Grade: Mrs. Sharon Walker and Mrs. Catie Wood; Third Grade Ms. Ashley Cooley, Mrs. Carson Gibson; Fourth Grade: Mr. Tyler Williams and Mrs. Bailey Whiteaker; Fifth and Sixth Grade Science: Mr. Colt Emery; Fifth and Sixth Grade Math: Mrs. LaDonna Franks; Fifth and Sixth Grade Literacy: Mrs. Leisha McCoy; Fifth and Sixth Grade Social Studies: Mr. Zeke Sanders. Ms. Amber Clinkingbeard PE. We have Mrs. Emily Stanley in the computer lab, Mrs. Melissa Cooper in the Library, Ms. Katie Brown in Music and Mr. Jonathan Baker in Art. Mrs. Stephanie King as counselor. Ms. Julie Hargett is the elementary secretary.

We also seven full time aides: Jessica Teague, Rose Stanley, Kary Foster, Debbie Geib, Candy Penland, and Loretta Branscum and two that splits their time between elementary and high school. Sonya Sneathern, Kevin Coulter and Patty Boyd full time library aide. We have several parent volunteers as well as high school student volunteers to help support our students.

The Calico Rock School District incorporated the preschool this year. The CRSD Little Pirates Preschool currently has 18 students. There are three full time employees and one-part time sub. Maggie Crider is the lead teacher, Kitty Dockins and Melia Gay are ParaPros and Nicole Lindsey is a part time sub. The program is ABC sponsored and follows the state curriculum Adventures in Learning.

The wellness committee meets quarterly thorough out the year to assess and modify the current health and wellness policy. The score is calculated by using the survey provided by the health index survey. The CDC provides guidelines to measure ways to improve the overall growth. The results are then analyzed and a plan is made to better improve both the physical and nutritional health of our students, staff and community. If anyone would like more information concerning this program or would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Ms. Amber Clinkingbeard or Kim Thomas.

Annual Public Meeting
October 15th, 2019
High School Principal Report

This has been an exciting year at the high school. Our enrollment is currently 171.

7 th grade	24	10 th grade	31
8 th grade	29	11 th grade	26
9 th grade	27	12 th grade	34

We have 17 faculty at this time. This gives us a 10:1 student teacher ratio. This means our students get a great deal of individual attention. We also have 4 teacher's aides, a distance learning facilitator, a library aid and a study hall facilitator. Our teachers stay after school to tutor students and the rest of our staff work with students individually during the school day. We want to help all students.

We are very fortunate that we have all the same faculty as we did last year. Kevin Coulter was a parapro at the elementary last year and he moved to the high school this year. Kish Pool and Sonya Sneathern now come to the high school 4 hours a day to work with students on literacy.

I believe it is very important for students to be involved in some kind of activity at school. We offer a variety of clubs and sports,

so there is something for everyone. Many of our clubs participate in competitions. Our Junior Beta Leadership Team went to Hot Springs last week to their conference. This was our school's first time to attend the conference. We took 4 students, other schools took bus loads. Our kids came home with an invitation to the National Competition in Fort Worth, TX this summer. We had students eligible to compete on the national level in Sr. Beta, FCCLA and FBLA last summer. There's nothing our students won't tackle.

Our FFA show team is competing at the state fair this week. Our Junior High Quiz Bowl Team went undefeated in competition last weekend. We will be hosting the Regional Quiz Bowl tournament this year on our campus. We have 6 different sports where students can participate and we are surveying our students to find what other sports, such as ESPORTS, that they would like to see come to our campus.

We offer a number of college classes through our distance learning lab and through local colleges. Students are able to earn college and high college credit concurrently. This allows students to get college credit for free or at a greatly discounted rate. We have many students taking advantage of this. At least one student will have 27 hours of college credit when she graduates from high school, which means she basically will have his freshman year of college already completed.

We offer our Career and Technical bound students many opportunities also. Each area of our CTE programs offer certificates that can be earned to help get jobs while they are going through their trade school or while attending college, or at a beginner's level in the workforce.

We have a growing Fine Arts Dept. Our Art dept. has won many competitions this year, and our band went to Solo and Ensemble competition in Jonesboro and got the highest rating that our school has ever had.

We have high academic standards here at Calico, but we also are teaching our students to have good character. We are teaching them to give back to the community and be thankful when the community supports them.

I am very proud of our school. Our faculty, staff and students work very hard. As Mrs. King said earlier, the high school earned an "A" in the Public School Rating Scores! We are thrilled! This puts us among the top schools in the state. If you see our students please tell them how proud you are of them.