

## Annual Report to the Public

October 25, 2021

The 2021 school year has gotten off to another great start. We have a fantastic faculty and staff ready to meet the educational needs of all students. We have partnered with Families Inc. to provide the social and emotional needs of students.

Masks are now optional but "highly recommended" until further notice due to the low rate of infection in the community and the district. However, we would like to continue to stress to everyone that social distancing and washing of hands are necessary to fight the battle against COVID-19. Sanitizing of classrooms, buses and other areas are also a priority.

The Calico Rock School 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 board of directors consist of Chris Brandon, Buster Branscum, Kelley Killian, Jay Knight and Jennifer Brickell. A first year board member is required to get 9 hours of professional development by December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 and it is facilitated by Anita Nordrum, the high school principal. Our parental involvement program provides parents with information on how to best help their child succeed educationally. This program is facilitated by LaDonna Franks, Elementary Counselor and Preschool Director.

On the financial side, the district currently has a bonded indebtedness of approximately \$2,685,000. It was last restructured in 2021 and the restructuring of that debt created a savings of \$276,664 over the life of the loan and the bulk of the savings will be experienced in the first three years. The outstanding interest rate is .93%. 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 2021-22 school year will be \$17,685.94 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 37 certified/licensed employees plus 3 administrators and an approximate payroll of \$1,818,650. An increase of \$43,300 from last year. There are 35 classified employees with an approximate payroll of \$692,375, an increase of \$19,700. Title 1, Medicaid and ARMAC funds are used to pay \$159,337 in both licensed and classified salaries. Last year the legal ending balance was \$772,862 in the operating fund compared to \$712,722 the previous year.

We are very happy to be able to provide meals at no charge to our students again this year. 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. Since July 1, 2021 the Calico Rock School District has served 23,183 meals to area children 18 years old and under. Compared to 18,802 the previous year that is an increase of 4,381 meals. A service that began due to the closure of schools 2020 and still exist today. In addition to school meals being delivered, we have a food pantry program that is facilitated by Ms. Chelsie Moss. This program helps families by providing essential food items like meat, noodles, can goods and juices. We realize these are difficult times and we are glad to help.

Regarding instruction, our elementary teachers have been trained in 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 initiative. The Apples Connections program helps facilitate learning in all aspects of literacy, not just reading. K-6 literacy teachers have been trained or they are in the process of being trained in Apples Connections.

Also in the elementary *"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.

We are proud to have partnered with the Izard County Sheriff's department by providing a substation on our elementary campus. This has been a very successful partnership for the past several years now. This has allowed the citizens of Calico Rock to have a much faster response time when in need of law enforcement.

Thanks to federal funds that are being distributed across the nation, we purchased five new school buses, a much needed addition to the district because our fleet was aged and high mileage vehicles. Now, students can ride in comfort with A/C on updated 2017 and 2019 low mileage buses. Another improvement to the district is the newly sealed parking lot at the elementary. This project, however, was paid for with funds that we had in reserves.

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. Also, the district is an asbestos free district with an abatement plan on file in the maintenance department files.

I would like to thank all of the patrons of the Calico Rock School District for their patience and support in these trying times. Remember to social distance, wear your face coverings, and wash your hands frequently to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Thank you.

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

October 25, 2021  
Report to the Public  
Stephanie King, Test Coordinator and Counselor

With no ACT Aspire testing in 2020, it is hard to do the normal comparisons we do between our groups of students year to year. Overall in our district, we are within 3% of average scores compared to other students in the state. We have a goal to raise these this year as we know that COVID has had an impact on student learning and state of mind when it came to school and having to do things virtually last year as well as taking into consideration the mental health aspect of the pandemic. We expect to see our scores rise as this year gets closer to normal for the students. We normally do interim ACT Aspire assessments throughout the year in preparation for the end of year tests, but this year those are not being provided to us. The state is moving toward a new testing program for 3-10 grade that should be implemented next school year. We will take the ACT Aspire this year for the last time.

We continue to use IReady for our K-2 assessment piece. As well as using this for our 3-8 as a monitoring and diagnostic tool. We have given one diagnostic so far with the remaining 2 being in January and April.

Each spring, our juniors take both the ASVAB and the ACT test. We were very pleased with our ACT scores from last year, as we were 1-2 points above the state average in each category: overall composite score, math, english, reading, and science.

We continue to work on our student success plans in advisory time at the high school. In addition, it serves as a time to address academic issues and social and emotional learning topics. We still have access to the Kuder system that allows students to examine and learn about different careers.

This week is Red Ribbon Week where we will focus our attention on vaping prevention and interventions at the high school level.

In accordance with ACT 190, The Comprehensive School Counseling Act of 2019, a school must formulate a comprehensive school counseling plan to be updated each year. Within the plan are the mission and vision of the program as well as services provided and an annual calendar. Each year, one or more goals are developed. Last year, the goal was to decrease the number of student absences in the district. Due to the pandemic and absences caused from quarantines, we didn't have sufficient or reliable data to evaluate the success of that goal. We chose to not repeat the goal this year for the same reasons. This year's goal is an increase in student awareness of what contributes to a positive school environment. Lessons on topics relating to this will be taught and the students will have a hand in recognizing other students for their positive contributions by nominating each other each week.

# Gifted & Talented

Annual Meeting October 25, 2021

The Calico Rock Gifted and Talented Program currently has 14 students identified in 5th and 6th grades. All 4th grade students are currently being tested for identification. This is the grade that the school has adopted for whole class screening. In 7th through 12th grades, there are 43 students identified as gifted and talented. Students can be referred for Gifted and Talented testing for identification in grades 4-12. Nominations can be self-nominated as well as teachers, parents, peers, and community members.

Mrs. Kish Pool is working with 4th through 6th grade students that would like to participate in the Y.E.S. for Arkansas (Youth Entrepreneur Showcase) competition, where students must invent a product or make an existing product better. They must first compete in the writing of a rigorous business plan that details all of the product's details, customer, profits, and prototype. The top 25 in the state will be announced December 10th. Multiple students have already made their prototypes and are selling for a profit. The high school GT students are currently working on the Veteran's Day Honor Ceremony, which will be held in the Calico Rock Elementary Auditorium, on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 9:00. They are also working on their annual Christmas pageant fundraiser. They have discussed working on another interactive mural to be painted on the V.F.W. building, as per request.

Mrs. Pool recently completed the district's Gifted and Talented Program Application and submitted it to the Arkansas Department of Education for review. Results will be sent to Superintendent Jerry Skidmore and Mrs. Pool no later than March. At that time, the results will be posted on the school website.

**Family and Community Engagement Facilitator Report for Annual Public  
Meeting 10-25-2021  
LaDonna Franks**

The Parent Center is located in the elementary school. The center has multiple games to build math, literacy, science and social studies skills for multiple grade levels. The center also has books, pamphlets, videos, and DVDs. The parent center also offers computer and internet access for parents. Information and activities for families and communities can be found by following the Calico Rock Elementary Facebook page.

The Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe will take place in November and December. We will be utilizing the Parent Center space for this fundraiser. The parent group could not get a Fall Festival on the calendar so they will be looking at possibly doing something in the Spring.

The Calico Rock City employees and Mayor Greg Hamby continue to support the elementary school in the car line every morning and afternoon. The elementary school, high school and city will be having a Pink-Out day for breast cancer awareness on October 29th. The home ball game, on the same night, will also be a Pink-Out night.

Many community businesses supported the high school and elementary students by donating t-shirts, basketballs and candy for the black and orange pep rally that was held on the elementary campus on Thursday, October 14. Students in grades prek - sixth grade were introduced to the Pirate basketball team, the Pirate band, and the Pirate dance team.

Report to the Public 2021  
LaDonna Franks, Elementary School Counselor

The district goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to increase student awareness of what contributes to a positive school environment. The counselors have implemented a k-12 initiative using the G.U.I.D.E for Life from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), along with the Lions Quest program.

The hope is that students will become more aware of how their actions affect their classroom and school environments. We expect this to lead to fewer discipline referrals. We also expect to see the number of students involved in creating a positive atmosphere increase shown by the increase of students recognizing and documenting the desired behaviors.

Each week multiple students are chosen for student spotlights. Each student is then placed in a poll for all staff and faculty to vote for the overall student of the month. Students receive certificates, pencils and t-shirts. Students are recognized in the local newspaper, social media and a bulletin board within the elementary school.

Red Ribbon week is being celebrated this week, October 25-29. The 2021 Red Ribbon theme is Drug Free Looks Like Me. Students will wear red bands and multiple numbers will be drawn for daily prizes. Monday- "We are REaDy to be DRUG FREE!" Wear red to kick off the week! Tuesday- "Put a Cap on Drugs!" Wear your favorite hat! Wednesday- "Team up Against Drugs!" Wear your favorite sports team or Pirate gear! Thursday- "Don't Let Drugs Mix You Up!" Wear your clothes backwards/inside out! Friday- "Drugs are a TRICK, not a Treat!" Wear a Halloween costume OR pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. Pink out at the game Friday night!

Students have been participating in lunch bunch groups. This gives students the opportunity to have social interactions with students that they may not normally socialize with. Students have also had counseling on an individual and small group basis to help them with social and emotional issues.

**Technology/Federal Funds  
Mike Mason**

**TECHNOLOGY**

Teacher workstations are all updated to meet the current needs of our classroom teachers. Teachers have laptops and document cameras that can be transferred and used as needed in case they need to work from home.

All classrooms at the elementary (k-6) have a cart in each room and have assigned those to students to use each day to help reduce the spread of germs.

High school has assigned a Chromebook to each student in grades 7-12 that they carry with them.

**Future Plans**

We will continue to replace teacher workstations, Chromebooks and other technology as needed.

The district is in the process of acquiring more VERIZON hot spots for those students who are quarantined and need internet access.

We will continue to replace the Smartboards and Interactive Projectors with Interactive Panels as needed.

The school will continue to use OpenDns web filter which is a cloud based Cisco filtering system for the network while on campus. The district will also use GoGuardian which will filter the Chromebooks that are off campus.

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

- The district will use the school's website ([pirates.k12.ar.us](http://pirates.k12.ar.us)) which is hosted by Brooks Jeffery Marketing in Mountain Home to send out mass text alerts and emails. Those who would like to sign up for these alerts can click on the sign up logo in the top right corner and sign up for text or email alerts.
- With the addition of new digital sign, we can use it for quick updates also
- Both campuses will also continue to use Facebook



## FEDERAL/STATE FUNDING

Federal and State funding is up about \$15,000 from last year largely in part because of the ESA funding we received from those school lunch forms that families turn in each year when school starts.

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 72% this year and 71% last year. Funding drastically decreases when we fall below the 70%.

### State Funding

ESA (Enhanced Student Achievement Funding) was \$295,514

PD was \$13,038

Title VI was \$27,141 and will be used to update Chromebooks and computers for the district. Chromebooks must be replaced every 5 years because they will stop receiving updates and therefore will not work with a lot of our online programs.

### Federal Funding:

Title I was \$120,341

Title II was \$19,159 which will be transferred into our Title I.

Title IV funding was \$10,000 and will be transferred into our Title I.

Total of \$485,193 to be used for salaries, technology and supplemental programs for the district.

**School Resource Officer  
Criminal Justice Program  
Safety Report  
2021/22**

As the School Resource Officer I am 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 and First Responder teacher.

Several new laws have gone into effect this year for School Resource Officer certifications. We are on track with all of the requirements, most of which we were already in compliance due to my previous certifications.

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

In October we inspected and serviced all school district AED's to ensure they are in good working order. This year all of the batteries were replaced and are not due for replacement again for 2-4 years depending on the model.

We conduct "Bleeding Control" training to adhere to the Arkansas law. We use the program **M.A.S. (Massive bleeding - Airway - Stretcher)** for 9-12th grades for this requirement.

We conduct the emergency drills for the High School, Elementary and Preschool. We conduct Fire drills, Tornado drills, Active Shooter/Killer drills, Lockdown drills and starting this year, Earthquake drills.

Numerous times throughout the school year we will bring Calico Rock and Pineville Fire Dept equipment and firetrucks to each of the campuses to educate the students in fire safety.

I also manage the student Fire Marshal Program for the High School and Elementary School. We currently have (4) Elementary Fire Marshals and (12) High School Fire Marshals.

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.

Each year we 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" used for detecting common "date-rape" drugs.

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

-Izard County Sheriff's Dept	-Calico Rock Fire Dept
-Pineville Fire Dept	-Arkansas State Police
-Arkansas Game and Fish	-Calico Rock Medical Center
-Arkansas Constables	-Arkansas Forestry Commission
-Arkansas Dept of Health	-Arkansas Constables
-Izard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	

Deputy Mark A. Stephen IC#26

## **Annual Public Meeting**

**October 25, 2021**

### **Elementary School Principal Report**

#### **Grades Kindergarten - 6th Grade**

Despite the unique challenges with Covid 19, the school year is off to an excellent start beginning with an open house that provided an opportunity to visit with parents in preparation for the new school year. The faculty and staff of Calico Rock Elementary, with the support of parents and the community, believe that all students can learn and reach their potential.

We have 195 students enrolled at Calico Rock Elementary who 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, typing, career interests, and technology skills, as well as social-emotional, conflict resolution, character education, and anti-bullying.

Our curriculum is aligned with Arkansas Standards which are designed to prepare students to succeed in various aspects of life. The standards are evidence and research-based, aligned with college and work expectations, and include rigorous content utilizing hands-on activities when possible.

With students, parents, and teachers all working together towards shared goals, we help ensure students make progress each year and graduate from our school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and our community.

We have several additions to our teaching staff this school year. Mrs. Shannon Cupples is teaching 3rd grade, Ms. Kary Foster is teaching Kindergarten, Ms. Savannah Harber is teaching 5th and 6th grade English, Mrs. Amy Cowgill is teaching 5th and 6th grade Math, and Mrs. Jessica Teague teaches 5th and 6th Science and Social Studies.

New support staff includes Ms. Brandy Lester - Custodian, Brianna Ritter - Tutor/Paraprofessional, Mrs. Gena Broadus - Sped Tutor/Paraprofessional, Ms. Leila Herron - Tutor/Paraprofessional, Ms. Abby Sanders - Sped

Tutor/Paraprofessional, and Mrs. Kim Sanders has returned as a Tutor/Paraprofessional.

The school continues to support the Bridges program and the food pantry as a way to lend extra support to families in need.

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

The school is continuing with the following programs: the Beta club (Elementary Beta 4-5), spelling bee, chess club, and quiz bowl.

Mrs. Hiers from the high school campus visits the elementary school campus each day to provide instruction in technology/robotics and also sponsors the robotics team.

Mrs. Connie Moser is our Special Education Coordinator and provides support in our special services offered to students with disabilities.

The Wellness Committee meets quarterly throughout 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.

Little Pirates Preschool currently has 19 students enrolled and has welcomed Mrs. Kayla Hutchins as a lead teacher, Mrs. Alicia Sanders as a paraprofessional/tutor, and Ms. Abby Humphries as a paraprofessional/tutor. The students at preschool had the opportunity to participate in our recent Black and Orange sports teams pep rally in the auditorium. The preschool program is ABC sponsored and follows the state curriculum Adventures in Learning.

The Calico Rock Elementary School would like to express our gratitude to Mayor Greg Hamby and the city of Calico Rock workers who volunteer each morning and afternoon to assist car riders at the elementary campus.

**Annual Public Meeting**  
**October 25th, 2021**  
**High School Principal Report**

This has been an exciting year at the high school. We have survived quarantines and ongoing pandemic regulations but we are pushing through and making it as normal a year as possible.

Our enrollment is currently 181, which is up from last year.

7 <sup>th</sup> grade	23	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	33
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	39	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	28
9 <sup>th</sup> grade	31	12 <sup>th</sup> grade	27

We have 20 faculty at this time. This gives us a 9:1 student teacher ratio. This means our students get a great deal of individual attention. We also have 5 paraprofessionals, a distance learning facilitator, 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 but one of the same faculty as we did last year. Mrs. Newcomb in our science department retired last year. Mr. Tyler Williams moved to the high school from elementary to take that position.

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. This year we added Bowling to our sports program. We have only had a few practices so far and we have 26 students participating.

Many of our clubs participate in competitions. We had Senior Beta and Junior Beta competing in Florida at the National Convention this last summer. Our FFA show team is competing at local fairs, at AYE in Northwest AR, and at the state fair. They have been extremely successful. We keep our facebook page busy with the news from our activities.

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.

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. Last year we had some students earn a substantial amount of money in competitions toward their Welding School in which they have recently graduated and joined the workforce. We also have a student that attends Ozarka in the afternoons to earn her CNA certification.

We are excited that requirements have been eased and our Band is again able to play in public. We have enjoyed having them back at the ball games. They can go and compete in person again.

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. We have a food drive sponsored by Senior Beta next month and a pinkout for Breast Cancer Awareness to name just a couple things going on right now.

We have 5 virtual students at the high school. These students do all of their work virtually. These students have teachers through Virtual Arkansas. They work with those teachers but are encouraged to come to campus for tutoring and for school activities and sports.