

## Lawrence County School District Annual Report to the Public 2017

### District Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Lawrence County School District to develop the ability of all students by motivating, challenging, and fostering independent education. To accomplish this mission, the Lawrence County School District will ensure a positive educational environment that enhances learning, fosters growth, and provides opportunities for all students and faculty to exceed and excel beyond the educational setting.

### Schools

The Lawrence County School District is home to 929 students and 131 staff members. The Walnut Ridge Elementary serves students in grades kindergarten through the sixth grade. Walnut Ridge High serves students in grades seven through twelve. The Lawrence County School District strives to support the schools in administering academic and extracurricular programs that aim at benefiting all students. District personnel accept the responsibility that ALL students can learn and the faculty and staff will continue to work diligently to accomplish that endeavor in order to develop future productive citizens of our communities.

Arkansas schools continue to ensure high quality instruction and instructional leadership through the implementation of the [Teacher Excellence and Support System](#) (TESS) that defines a system to support high quality classroom instruction and effective teaching and leading in Arkansas's schools. The new teacher evaluation system provides school districts a transparent and consistent teacher evaluation system that ensures effective teaching and promotes professional learning.

### Annual Public Meeting

The Lawrence County School District held a public meeting on October 10, 2017 at 6:30p.m. in the Middle level building library.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress toward accomplishing district program goals, creating opportunities for excellence, accreditation standards, and school objectives for the 2018-2019 school year. Principals gave an overview of programs in each school. All parents and patrons were encouraged to attend.

### Walnut Ridge Elementary School 2017 Public Report

The Walnut Ridge Elementary School accredited by ADVANCED-ED is in full compliance with the state standards. The faculty and staff remain committed to the school mission while developing the abilities of each student through the implementation of motivating, challenging, and independent learning within a safe and positive school environment.

The elementary school is currently made up of Kindergarten through Sixth Grade. Grades K-4 is housed in the Ben R. Bush building along with an ABC program. Grades 5-6 are housed in the Middle School building. There are 374 students enrolled in K-4 and 137 at the middle school for a total of 511 students in the elementary school. The total enrollment for preschool is 57. Fifty-nine percent of the students qualify for the federal food program.

Third through sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in intramural basketball. Fourth through sixth grade students may participate in football, and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls may participate in volleyball. All of these sports are part of the Walnut Ridge Elementary Booster Club's program under the direction of the school's Athletic Director. Learning is extended at WRES through a variety of additional activities available to students. The Lawrence County Spelling Bee, Chess Tournaments, Quiz Bowl, Elementary Field Day, and Odyssey of the Mind are some of the opportunities. Our K-4<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the One School, One Book program again this past

year. **One School, One Book** provides excellent involvement between the school, parents, and community. We received positive feedback on the program and will continue it again this year.

The Walnut Ridge Elementary Before and After School Program remains a growing part of the elementary school. There are currently seventy-five students enrolled in this program. The Walnut Ridge Elementary Summer Program met the essentials of over eighty students. The average daily attendance is between 30-50 students. Our school is committed to serving the needs of our parents and community.

Two Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for the 2017-18 school year. The first parent-teacher conference will be held at the end of the first nine weeks' period. The second conference will be held at the end of the third nine weeks. Mid-term progress reports will be sent to parents each five weeks during the four quarters. Individual conferences may be scheduled as deemed necessary.

Student Recognition is a very important part of Walnut Ridge Elementary. Students will receive awards for Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Good Work, Birthday, Principal's Award, Super Star Award, Extra Effort, Awesome Attitude and Most Improved. The awards will be presented at the end of the first, second, and third quarters. End of year awards will be presented fourth quarter. Students are awarded Bobcat Bucks for exhibiting good behavior and work ethics. The Catch Me Doing Good certificates are awarded throughout the school year. Mrs. Kelly Rider is continuing the Word of the Month Program which places emphasis on words associated with good character.

The Walnut Ridge School continues the use of PLC Committees school wide with the goal of insuring that all students learn at high levels. The administration and faculty works diligently to obtain professional development that will foster student growth and provide an enhanced learning environment. All professional development is aligned with the local ACSIP Plan and meets the requirements mandated by the state. Teachers continue to grow professionally through active involvement in professional organizations and the state mandated TESS evaluation system. Professional Development this year will focus on Literacy, Science, Math, and Classroom Management. The Walnut Ridge Elementary certified teaching staff will receive 60 hours of staff development during the 2017-18 school year.

Students at Walnut Ridge Elementary take the state required assessments annually. This includes the I Station Assessment for grades K-2, and the ACT Aspire Assessment for grades 3 through 6. Students with academic deficiencies on the assessments are given multiple opportunities for improvement inclusive of; small pull-out booster groups, Reading Recovery, mathematics push-in programs, and academic prescriptions are filled in the Parent Center. We also offer After School Tutoring, In School Tutoring through the remediation/enrichment period in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades, and one-on-one time with instructional aides are the programs in place for students who need additional academic instruction. Our reading staff assists teachers through the implementation of small intervention groups for students in grades K-4.

Walnut Ridge Elementary faculty and staff will continue to work with the students, parents, and community to meet the needs of all students. Walnut Ridge Elementary strives to make our school a true learning environment that promotes the belief that all students can learn. All teaching strategies and techniques implemented are researched based to help support fundamental growth for our students. Administrators, teachers, and parents working together can make a positive difference in student achievement and educational quality, thereby initiating a "School of Choice".

**Spring, 2016 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills  
(Number & Percent Scoring at or Above the 50 Percentile)**

	<b>ITBS</b>	<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>% at or Above 50th Percentile</b>
<b>First Grade</b>	<b>Reading Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>41%</b>
	<b>Math Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>Reading Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>54%</b>
	<b>Math Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>42%</b>

**Spring, 2016 ACT Aspire**

(The ranks show how this group performed in comparison to other grade 3 students in the nation.)

(The ranks show how this group performed in comparison to other grade 4 students in the nation.)

This report shows how the typical student in this group achieved as well as or better than other students in the nation.

<b>Third Grade ACT Aspire</b>	<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>% At or above national scores.</b>
	<b>78</b>	<b>Writing 8%</b>
		<b>English 70%</b>
		<b>Reading 33%</b>
		<b>Math 37%</b>
		<b>Science 33%</b>

<b>Fourth Grade ACT Aspire</b>	<b>Number Tested</b>	<b>% At or above national scores.</b>
	<b>64</b>	<b>Writing 24%</b>
		<b>English 69%</b>
		<b>Reading 39%</b>
		<b>Math 52%</b>
		<b>Science 34%</b>

## **Walnut Ridge High School 2017 Public Report**

Walnut Ridge High School meets the Standards for Accreditation as established and set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education. Walnut Ridge High School is also a fully accredited member of the North Central Association.

The faculty and administration are involved in an ongoing effort to accomplish goals of the school's mission statement. Workshops and training to obtain the highest level of services for our students and faculty are provided. The professional development hours are based on the requirements found within the ACTAPP State Rules, Board policies, student achievement data, and local ACSIP plans. Specifically, professional development activities are designed at increasing student academic performance. Two key focuses of professional development at WRHS include the enhanced emphasis on career education and the continued development of a Professional Learning Community.

At Walnut Ridge High School, 28 faculty members provide instruction in a broad spectrum of subjects ranging from special education and basic skills to Advanced Placement courses. In 2016-17, Walnut Ridge High School produced two AP Scholars. This designation goes to students who have scored a "3" or higher on 3 or more AP exams throughout high school. WRHS offers nine

**Advanced Placement courses. A smart core curriculum and a core curriculum are offered that benefit both the college bound student and those students who will be entering the workforce after graduation. Students may also become a “Completer” by completing a course of study in one of three vocational pathways at WRHS: Agriculture, Business, and Family & Consumer Science. Students are allowed to pursue a course of study that will enable them to attend the Northeast Arkansas Technical Center in Jonesboro which offers 13 technical programs, many of which provide concurrent credit through ASU-Newport. Walnut Ridge High School also offers seven concurrent credit courses through Black River Technical College that allows students who qualify academically to receive college credit in those courses for a reduced rate of tuition.**

**In the 2017-18 school year, Walnut Ridge High School has added additional course offerings and opportunities for students in the field of career education. WRHS received a grant to start a Fire Science program; one of only two programs in the state of Arkansas. This program is partnered with Black River Technical College to provide fire science instruction and allow students to receive firefighter and first responder certifications. Also, WRHS partnered with BRTC on the Technical Opportunities for Secondary Students (TOPSS) program. This program allows students to attend BRTC for half of the day during their junior and senior years and receive training and certifications in welding, advanced manufacturing, or medical professions (nursing). This program is grant funded and is of no charge to the students. Finally, WRHS employed a Career Development Facilitator to assist students in guidance in their career decisions. The CDF also facilitates a Career Ready 101 course where students can earn a Career Ready certificate which is required for employment by many area manufacturing plants.**

**Walnut Ridge High School students participate in a variety of nationally sponsored activities that include FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, and a number of school sponsored clubs. WRHS students have excelled both at the state and national level in such competitions as Quiz Bowl and Odyssey of the Mind. Students are also involved in community activities with Key Club, Ralph Joseph Leadership, and Red Cross. Walnut Ridge High School students attended Boys and Girls State sponsored by the American Legion.**

**Students are given the opportunity to attend an ACT summer program hosted by Walnut Ridge High. The preparation course offered during the summer months gives many students a significant increase in scores as a result of their participation. ACT help sessions are also sponsored throughout the school year in the week before a scheduled test.**

**Students may participate in a host of extracurricular activities that enhance the learning process. Athletic programs include football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, track and field, cross-country, the “Alleycats” dance team, and trap shooting team. An active cheerleading squad, band, and choir compete in a host of local, state, and national events. Individual clubs and organizations meet a diverse range of student needs.**

**Alternative Education is located in the Walnut Ridge High School and serves students 9-12. This program serves students for behavioral issues, attendance issues and students who are at risk for not graduating. These students may earn credits in English, Social Science, Science, Math and various electives taught via Virtual Arkansas, a live-streaming simulcast taught by highly qualified teachers across the state and facilitated by WRHS teachers. Students may also attend the Jonesboro Service Center to learn skills for vocational trades. Virtual Arkansas teachers meet with students a minimum of twice a week and WRHS facilitators meets with students on a daily basis.**

**Technology continues to be an important component of the educational process. Every classroom has Internet accessibility and the high school library has sixteen computers available for student research and projects. The high school has three computer labs. One of the labs is used for classroom instruction in the business department. One lab is utilized as a remediation center to remediate students who scored below proficient on the End-of-Course and Benchmark exams and the other is a general lab adjacent to the Library used for a variety of educational needs. WRHS also has three carts containing twenty five laptop computers each which are assessable to all classrooms**

throughout the building. The laptops will also be used for ACT Aspire testing in the spring. The entire high school building has Wi-Fi access.

Since Walnut Ridge High School received the Farm to School Grant in 2014-15, students have been growing food on the school campus and distributing that food to the school cafeteria to be served to the student body. As a result of this grant, a fully functional greenhouse and growing structure was constructed adjacent to the Agriculture building. Also, two new courses were added to the WRHS Vocational Agriculture curriculum to support the program.

Students at Walnut Ridge High take the state-required assessments annually. ACT Aspire became the state-mandated test for grades 3-10 in 2015-16. The chart below describes the results of the ACT Aspire test:

### 2016-17 Lawrence County School District ACT Aspire School Proficiency

English	70%
Math	45%
Science	38%
Reading	38%
Writing	33%

### 2013-2017 WRHS Graduate's performance on the ACT College admission exam:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number Tested	53	72	60	67	77
English	17.7	19.1	19.0	18.8	19.2
Mathematics	18.6	19.6	19.3	19.5	18.5
Reading	18.1	20.2	19.5	19.8	19.5
Science	18.7	19.0	19.6	19.3	18.8
Composite	18.4	19.6	19.5	19.5	19.1

### 2016-17 Advanced Placement Tests/ Scores of 3 or higher

AP Course	# Enrolled	# Taking Exam	Score of:		
			3.0	4.0	5.0
Biology	5	5	0	0	0
English Lang./Comp	25	25	3	1	0
Government & Politics	6	6	3	0	0
Calculus AB	3	3	0	0	0
World History	30	30	2	3	0

English Lit./Comp.	18	18	0	0	0
Music Theory	2	2	0	0	0
U.S. History	21	21	5	0	0

## Lawrence County School District Graduation, Drop-Out, Remediation Rate

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Graduation Rate*	87.2%	95.4%	96.8	85.7	93.9
Drop-out Rate	1.01%	1.57%	0.60	0.93	1.34
College Remediation Rate	64.7%	35.5%	52.2	55.8	52.5

\*State Goal for Graduation Rate is 85%

Walnut Ridge High School is committed to excellence in education. The mission of Walnut Ridge High School is to enable all students and faculty an opportunity to exceed and excel. We recognize that the responsibility of a solid educational foundation lies with the students, teachers, school leaders, parents, and community. Our mission is to develop the abilities of each student by maintaining an educational setting that enhances learning, fosters growth, and ensures development.

## Alternative Learning Environment

The Lawrence County School District continues to advance its Alternative Learning Environment program. The CATS (Creating A Thriving Student) Program is located in the Walnut Ridge High School and serves students 9-12. This program serves students who are at risk for not graduating, who have behavioral issues, and who have attendance issues. Students may earn credits in English, Social Science, Science, Math and various electives. Core courses in English, Math and Social Science are taught by accredited on-campus faculty, and core Science courses are taught via Virtual Arkansas, a live-streaming simulcast taught by highly qualified teachers across the state and facilitated by WRHS faculty. For electives, students may take on-campus electives and Completer courses in Agriculture, Business or Consumer Science, or may choose electives taught via Virtual Arkansas. Students who meet the proper criteria may also attend the Jonesboro Service Center to learn skills for vocational trades.

## Parent Center

The Walnut Ridge School Parent Center is committed to providing materials and services to assist parents in improving their child's academic achievement. We continue to encourage and support active parental involvement in a variety of ways including but not limited to volunteering.

Informational packets are prepared in the center and will be distributed during parent/teacher conferences. Packets consist of useful information including but not limited to school calendar, contact information, parental involvement plan, volunteer opportunities, parenting tips in areas such as homework, health or nutrition, and projected parent involvement activities planned for the school year.

Newsletters are created monthly in the parent center to provide communication between the school and parents in a regular and meaningful manner for each campus including elementary, middle, and high schools. Newsletters are posted on the school website, available in paper form, and may be received electronically through email. The school website is another method for parents to communicate or be informed in a regular and meaningful manner. Parents are encouraged to visit the website at [www.bobcats.k12.ar.us](http://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us) to check their child's progress, assignments, and activities.

Parent Center surveys will be sent home annually and are available to download on the parent center page on the school website. Results from the surveys will be used to better understand the needs of the parents. Parent meeting topics and material suggestions are also compiled from the surveys.

Volunteerism is supported and encouraged at Walnut Ridge School. Volunteer surveys are sent home annually and are also available to download on the school website. Instructional volunteers are trained through the center each year. Faculty members receive a volunteer resource book which is updated yearly from the survey results. Teachers are encouraged to take advantage of this useful resource.

The parent center provides resources and materials free of charge. The center is available daily and is located near the middle level building. It is coordinated by Lindsey Romine and facilitated by Dyan Heard. Mrs. Romine may be reached at 870-819-0443 and Mrs. Heard at 870-819-0441 or both at [www.bobcats.k12.ar.us](http://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us). The Walnut Ridge Elementary School encourages all parents to utilize this valuable asset.

### **Gifted, Talented and Creative Program**

The Lawrence County School District's gifted, talented, and creative program provides students with various program options such as Whole Group Enrichment, Resource Room, Pre-Advanced Placement, and Advanced Placement Courses.

Kindergarten through second grade are served through Whole Group Enrichment by the gtc coordinator for 30 minutes per week.

Students in the third through sixth grade are provided services in the resource room for 150 minutes per week by the GTC coordinator.

Students in the fifth through tenth grade are served through Pre-Advanced Placement courses such as Civics, English, Economics, Math, Physical Science, Biology, and Algebra II, by a certified teacher for 250 minutes per week.

Students in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade are provided services through Advanced Placement courses such as Biology, Calculus, Music Theory, U.S. History, World History, American Government, English Language, and English Literature and Composition by a certified teacher for 250 minutes per week.

All seventh through twelfth grade students have the opportunity to meet with the GTC coordinator on the third Monday of the month from 8:00 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

Identified students also have the opportunity to participate in outside learning opportunities such as Odyssey of the Mind, quiz bowl, chess competitions, NEAC Business Expo, U.S. Space Camp, Story Store, Stock Market Game, and Project Fair. Additional field trips are arranged when appropriate.

Referrals for the gifted, talented and creative program are accepted throughout the year. Please feel free to access Tonda Brand's website page for more information or contact her at 819-0439.

## **District Technology**

The district has invested significant resources into a robust wireless network. The 802.11ac wireless standard based network that we planned last year was approved by e-rate and has been installed. By placing a wireless access point in every room wireless bandwidth now supports a full classroom of devices simultaneously. The gym and cafeteria have higher end access points and can easily support 100+ devices.

The move to the new state network was completed and after receiving reports from other districts of issues related to performance, reliability, etc. we filed for, and were approved for, an additional network connection. The new connection is funded mostly by e-rate and is a year-by-year approval. With this new connection, we are able to ensure that we have sufficient bandwidth available at all times.

Teacher laptops were at end of useable life and were replaced, as were the older bulb type projectors. The new projectors are LED and have a lifetime of 20,000 hours compared to the bulb life of 2,000 hours in the old LCD projectors. The new computer and new projectors have been a welcome upgrade.

The district is now close to 100% Windows 10. The latest update to Windows 10 features handwriting technology that will allow the students to use the newer touch screen devices to their fullest extent. Windows 10 will recognize handwriting and convert it to an editable digital document. In addition, students can draw and illustrate with all the advantages of the digital formats such as backup copies, cloud accessibility, etc.

The server room consolidation could not be completed due to lack of environmental control. A small self-contained unit was added to the new location but initial indications are that a full sized unit will be required to finish the consolidation and free up the old location so that it can be used as a classroom or some other use.

Approximately 175 laptops were purchased in seven new laptop carts of 25 laptops each. Four in elementary and three in high school. Total teacher and student devices now total over 1100. As laptop carts start to age, we plan to move forward replacing Smartboards with interactive panels. Technology continues to expand in its role in education and will be updated as needed to meet the expansion.

## **Capital Improvements**

- Computers
- Wireless Network
- Painted Elementary Library
- Painted Middle Level Hallways
- Tinted Library Windows
- Basketball Goals at Middle Level Building
- Purchase of Bus
- Walkway Canopy Installed
- Playground Barriers Installed
- High School Office Carpet
- Title I Building Carpet
- Teacher Desks
- Window Blinds
- Replacing Outdated Heat and Air Systems
- Gymnasium Seating
- Maintenance Trucks Purchased

## **Federal and State Categorical Funding**

The Lawrence County School District receives federal monies and state categorical monies to supplement educational programs. The District receives Title I, Title II-A, Title IV-A, Title V (state), Carl Perkins, National School Lunch Act (NSL) English Language Learners (ELL), Professional Development (PD), and Alternative Learning Environment (AE) funding. All funds (except Carl Perkins) are administered through the schools' Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plans.

Title I funds are utilized for Walnut Ridge Elementary. Funds are used to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities for teachers and students. Literacy, math, and science are targeted areas of improvement. The Parent Center is funded using Title I fund, also.

Title II-A funds are used to help with professional development in the elementary grades. Currently, Brooke Bramlett's salary as Literacy Coach is funded from Title II-A funds. Also,

Title IV – A funds are being transferred to Title I to help with expenses in the Title I budget.

Title VI (state) funds are used to help provide a security officer for the district.

Carl Perkins funds are specifically used in the Vocational Department. Business, Agriculture, and Family and Consumer Science classes provide supplemental activities with Carl Perkins funds. Funds are also used to provide teachers with professional development opportunities and travel expenses.

National School Lunch Act (NSLA) funds are geared at increasing student academic performance in math, literacy, science, and social studies. Positions paid with NSLA funds are: School Nurse, Security Officer, MS Guidance Counselor, Technology Lab aide in HS, Librarian, Before and After School Tutoring, Summer School at the high school level, and others. NSLA monies are also used for software, HS library, and materials and supplies for math and literacy.

Professional Development funds allow teachers to attend various trainings throughout the year. Teachers are also afforded the opportunity to attend meetings that address best practices in their respective academic field and that pertain to their Professional Growth Plan.

Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) funds assist in the establishment of the Alternative School located on the Walnut Ridge campus. Teachers are compensated for providing instruction at the school. Materials and supplies are also purchased to assist with the instructional program of the ALE.

The Lawrence County School District does not have a soda contract at the present time. The district is looking at possible options.

### **Equity**

The Lawrence County School Equity coordinator for the District is Debbie Findley. She can be reached at 870-886-6623.

### **Homeless**

The Lawrence County School Homeless Coordinator for the District is Penny Sloan. She can be reached at 870-886-6697.

**Statement**

**The Lawrence County School District is committed to provide our students an excellent education. We want parents and the community involved in the educational process. With everyone working toward the same goals, we can provide the education our children need. At the Lawrence County Schools, we are committed to this challenge. The Lawrence County School Board and Administration are committed to improve our facilities and modernize the school. This is an ongoing effort by all. We want everyone to be proud of our school district and our combined success.**

