

The Charleston School District's Annual Report to the Public was presented on October 24, 2016.

Mr. Jeff Stubblefield, Superintendent of Charleston Schools and Mrs. Susan Brown, Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs, presented the district's annual report to the Charleston School Board. The district's enrollment on October 1, 2016 was 905 students, which is an increase of 23 students from last year. There are 39 Pre-K students in our First Step program. Currently our largest class on campus is the third grade class with 88 students enrolled. The smallest class is Kindergarten with 57 students. Annual foundation funding per student is \$6,646 per student. Currently 50% of students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced lunches. Charleston graduated 74 students in 2016. According to the Arkansas State Department of Education, the Charleston School District is fully accredited with no probation or deficiencies cited.

The value of facilities is \$41,000,000. The beginning teacher salary is \$37,000 with the average teacher salary among the top 20 districts in the state. Mr. Stubblefield further reported the district's assessment is \$54,462,477, which represents small growth over the past three years. There are presently 69 certified positions including two certified positions added due to growth. The district has an annual budget of approximately \$8,000,000. The district has an exclusive contract with Pepsi Bottling Company with all proceeds from the contract received to 3001 Building Fund.

All students in grades 1-12 have a Chromebook for school work, research, and testing.

Scores for the 2015-16 school year. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade takes the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and grades 3-10 take the ACT Aspire Assessment.

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade:	LA: 66	Math: 62	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	LA: 69	Math: 75	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade:	ELA: 33%	Math: 68%	Science: 44%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 48%	Math: 61%	Science: 43%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 67%	Math: 61%	Science: 47%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 61%	Math: 75%	Science: 64%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 45%	Math: 70%	Science: 46%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 51%	Math: 53%	Science: 49%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	ELA: 57%	Math: 41%	Science: 33%

<sup>th</sup>  
10 Grade: ELA: 51% Math: 20% Science: 34%

The Charleston Elementary is continuing with the Susan Barton Reading and Spelling program. The program is aimed toward students who are struggling in reading and spelling and is based on phonemic awareness. The kindergarten, first, and second grade students who are in the program spend twenty minutes a day with a one-on-one instructor. The third and fourth grade students who are in the program spend forty five minutes twice a week with a one-on-one instructor. The district has purchased the site license for the Barton System. This summer the Elementary School had a summer intervention program that served approximately 45 students. They have seen great gains in student reading and writing skills as well as in spelling.

The elementary school is in the middle of construction. We have seen a great deal of progress in the new offices and enclosing of the hallways. The staff and students have adapted well with the construction and have done a great job remaining focused on education. The new building should be complete by the end of December and the enclosure of the hallways should be finished in just a few weeks.

We have seen many positive aspects of the School Based Health Clinic with several students getting medical treatment each day. We have also had students receive vision checkups and get eye glasses. As of September, 30, 2016, 415 students have enrolled in the health clinic and approximately 8 students per day receive health care. We are also excited about the dental part of the clinic opening sometime this year.

The elementary welcomes two new teachers and one para-professional on staff this year. These additions have helped us to keep our class sizes lower and benefited our overall commitment to student development.

Charleston Elementary would like to thank all of the parents and community for being patient in the construction areas and for supporting our school. We look forward to serving our student body more efficiently and effectively with the new additions.

The Charleston Middle School is continuing to expand our technology in the way of Chromebooks and wireless access points. All students in the Middle School will be tested online this year under the ACT Aspire Assessment. All students in grades 5 through 8 have access to Chromebooks and are integrating technology in the classroom. The Middle School has formed a four man team of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers involved in the Literacy Design Collaborative. The goal is to incorporate literacy in to the middle school content areas. The teachers collaborate and create modules that address the content standards in a research-proven format. They have received training and will have six on-site visits from the professional development trainers. The Middle School had their annual STEM Day in May where every student creates a project and displays them for the school. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will continue with STEM during the year and each quarter will collaborate with the Science and Math department

to create projects. Charleston Middle School is one of ten pilot schools that are integrating an Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning curriculum in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The curriculum is “the process of acquiring the skills to recognize and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, appreciate the perspectives of others, establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and handle interpersonal situations effectively.”

The school has several digital learning classes this year. According to High School Principal, Shane Storey, “These courses help students to be organized and more responsible in knowing what and when things need to be done. It gives them more flexibility.” The Class of 2016 scored above the state and national average in all areas on the ACT (American College Test) which is an entrance exam for college and universities. 77% of the graduating class took the ACT. The composite average score for our students was a 21.6. For the past five summers, the district has provided an ACT Prep class at the end of the school year for students taking the ACT. We feel that this has been very successful for students have increased their test scores. According to the College Board, AP exams with a score of 3, 4, or 5 qualify for college credit for the course. This year 27% of the students who took AP Exams scored a three or better. We currently have 32 students who are taking concurrent college course on campus. These students have the opportunity to graduate high school with 18 hours of college credit. We currently have a total of 204 college hours being earned on the high school campus. New this year is a Robotics course offered by University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

Under the ESEA Accountability System, status is based on the 2014 school year. The Charleston Elementary School is “achieving” in percent tested and “needs improvement” for math and literacy. The Charleston High School is “achieving” in percent tested, graduation rate and “needs improvement” for math and literacy. The Every Child Succeeds Act will start a new accountability process in the 2017-18 school year.

“We are very proud of our annual test scores, even though the district has a preliminary accountability status rating of In Needs Improvement Mr. Stubblefield was quoted, along with 90% of the schools in Arkansas.” The teachers are working very hard to implement the Common Core State Standards and to increase student achievement. Resources, supplies, professional development training, and purchase of technology have been put in place to give our teachers and students access to reach academic goals.

The Charleston School District receives federal funds through the Title I and Title II programs These funds are used in the following manner: Title I Reading Teacher/Reading Recovery Teacher, .20 FTE federal coordinator, 2.0 FTE para-professionals, professional development, elementary summer program, materials and supplies for classrooms, computer software programs for math and reading, after school tutoring grades 5-8 , and welfare students. Title II funds are used for a classroom reduction teacher in Kindergarten. Title VI funds are used for technology purchases in the district and also to pilot the Heart Bridge curriculum in Middle School.

The Charleston School District also receives Special Needs Funding: NSL funds are used to pay for salaries of: 3.1427 FTE teacher's aides, .5 FTE of a counselor, .6424 FTE of a curriculum specialist, .20 FTE classroom reduction teacher. It is also used to purchase technology, books for classroom libraries participating in Literacy Lab, literacy and math instruction materials, purchase of IXL software and accelerated reader program, ACT prep tutoring, credit recovery, parent involvement activities and materials.

Professional development funds are used to send staff to workshops and conferences for the purpose of increasing teacher quality in instructional areas. Some of the funds are transferred to NSL. ALE funds are used to go towards the purchase of a seat at the Paris ALE Program.