



Director's Report - Curriculum and Instruction

September 2020



Arkadelphia School District opened for onsite and virtual instruction on August 24, 2020. Approximately 30% of APSD students started the year virtually. Schools were closed for onsite instruction on August 27th and 28th due to the threat of dangerous weather conditions and power outages.

PERRITT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Perritt held open house throughout the week of August 17th; teachers scheduled times for their families to come onsite individually. A virtual teacher was identified for each grade level: Dawn Forthman (Kindergarten), Shawna Childs (First Grade), and Becky McBride (Second Grade). They distributed Chromebooks to virtual students and scheduled times for students to come onsite for assessments. Perritt welcomed onsite K-2 students on August 24th; these students were issued devices as well. Teachers have been teaching students to use the new devices and navigate the learning management system.

PEAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Peake held a drive-thru open house event on August 20th. A virtual teacher was identified for each grade level: Natalie Thomas (Third Grade), Tina Calhoon (Fourth Grade), and Alison Carter (Fifth Grade). Chromebooks were distributed to virtual and onsite students. Peake welcomed onsite 3-5 students on August 24th. Teachers have been teaching students to use the new devices and preparing them in the event we need to pivot to virtual instruction.

GOZA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Goza held an open house for sixth grade students on August 20th; families were assigned a time slot by homeroom teacher. Teachers in grades 6-8 will teach onsite and virtual students. Chromebooks and textbooks were issued to all students. Goza welcomed onsite 6-8 students on August 24th. Teachers have been teaching students to use the new devices and preparing them in the event we need to pivot to virtual instruction.

ARKADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL

AHS held an open house event for freshman and new students on August 20th; students were assigned times based on their last name. A virtual open house was made available for all other students and families. Macbooks and other instructional materials were distributed to all students. AHS welcomed onsite students on August 24th. Teachers have been preparing students in the event we need to pivot to virtual instruction.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

GT staff have been working to identify fourth grade students for GT. Testing and identification normally take place in the spring of the third grade year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Home Language Use Surveys were distributed to families of new students and Kindergarten students. These are used to determine who will need to be screened for ELL services.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education students were also distributed devices and will have blended learning this year in order to prepare for virtual instruction if needed. Amanda Klein was identified as the virtual special education teacher for K-5 special education students. Special Education teachers in grade 6-12.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers participated in professional development at their campuses on August 10th - 12th. Professional development activities focused on preparing to provide blended instruction in the 2020-21 school year. This included training in the use of the new learning management system, online content, and use of new devices. Teachers returned onsite the morning of August 27th and all day on August 28th to participate in planning and additional professional development.