

Annual Report to the Public  
Hackett School District  
October 2020

Hackett School District, with the help of its staff and the support of our families, provides an excellent opportunity for all students to receive a great education, participate in a lot of extracurricular activities, and prepare for life beyond public school. The total student population for both schools is 731 for grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. There are 364 students at the High School and 367 students at the Elementary School. We also house three Pre-K classrooms that are authorized a total of 50 students. Hackett School District is in “Full Compliance” with the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools.

The 2019-2020 school year was greatly impacted by COVID-19 as well as the current 2020-2021 school year. Hackett District has taken necessary steps to greatly improve our ability to provide a safe environment for our students. We have purchased disinfectant misters that can clean entire rooms or busses in a matter of seconds to minutes. These tools will remain beneficial for future years during cold and flu seasons regardless of COVID virus risk after a vaccine is developed and effective. We have taken many mitigation steps to implement social distancing where possible or practical in our schools while keeping a balance of student life, events, education, and participation in activities that are very important to students and their families. We have implemented an education plan for 2020-21 that can be read on our school website that includes an opportunity for fully onsite, a combination of virtual and onsite instruction, or fully virtual.

The following is a small sample of many highlights from our District’s schools:

- First Grade teacher Val Harp has been selected to be a participant in a three year research study by Northwestern University entitled “Ambitious Elementary Science Education.
- Both schools within the District utilize Maker Space in its Media Center - a national initiative encouraging libraries to add activities that encourage problem solving, spatial reasoning, and collaboration.
- Hackett Schools are now 1 to 1 with Chromebooks to students.
- Hackett Elementary uses the Walk-to-Intervention program that assists all students in becoming better readers.
- Our 4th-6th students have an additional daily intervention time “WIN” (What I Need) to focus on the areas of reading, math and science.
- Hackett Elementary is continuing to place an emphasis in the area of reading using the reading initiative known as RISE. All elementary teachers have completed RISE training and will be undergoing science of reading proficiency evaluations.
- Hackett Elementary is in its fourth year of the Foundations phonics program and has implemented the program at all grade levels in K-6.
- Hackett Elementary is piloting Core Knowledge for reading comprehension in 2nd grade and piloting Illustrative Math K-5.
- Hackett Elementary School’s competitive Robotics Team, made up of 4th – 6th grade students, is in its fourth year and has qualified for State the past three years. This past year, our students finished with a first place state finish in Innovative Design.

- Hackett Elementary is continuing the Before/After School Hornets program or BASH. BASH operates from 6:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. each day. We currently have 75 students enrolled in this program.
- Hackett Elementary is in our final year of working with Solution Tree, a three year-long Professional Learning Community or PLC program that seeks to improve curriculum and learning priorities.
- Hackett High School utilizes Flex instructional time for additional academic support for students.
- Hackett High School offers the Cadet Core program as an elective course. It enables students to learn about different branches of the military, train to be in the school color guard, and have military based Physical Training or PT time. Hackett was the first school in the state of Arkansas to provide this program to its students.
- Hackett High School offers Orientation to Teaching through our Family and Consumer Sciences or FACS program.
- Hackett High School has a fully dedicated Computer Science program.
- Hackett High School has an onsite drone program which will enable students who complete all courses the opportunity to become a fully licensed drone pilot.
- Hackett High School has continued an emphasis on providing useful information to parents through social media. We have received a lot of positive posts on those sites and many compliments from appreciative parents.
- Hackett District has a School Based Mental Health Counselor to help meet the needs of our students where area agencies are not able to fully meet the needs of our students. We currently have one full-time counselor that serves our school from Friendship, Inc.
- Hackett District utilized virtual teacher introductions before the school year through social media and posted campus tours using drones for filming.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences were conducted virtually at progress reports rather than after the first grading period had ended to assist parents.
- Hackett Schools added a sidewalk at the northern end of the football field that connects to the visitors' bleachers and the concession stands on that side of the field.
- Metal fences were placed in the outfield of the softball and baseball fields.
- Protective hand rails were constructed along the sidewalks at the Porter Annex on the high school campus and the Quad building at the elementary campus.
- Hackett purchased two new busses using the Go Red program and saved 25% of the total cost or \$43,586.
- At least one or more water bottle filling stations have been installed for student and staff use in all buildings where water fountains are located.
- Hackett Schools used CARES Act funding to purchase Interactive White Board TVs for all classrooms which can allow a wide range of interaction possibilities both live and remotely for both students and teachers.

The schools of Hackett School District are constantly striving to improve student achievement. We are continuing our efforts for improving our Response to Intervention or RTI program. We recognize this is one of the best methods for overall student achievement for our schools and for the individual students. Studies confirm that RTI is one of the greatest tools schools can use to impact student achievement for struggling students. Hackett District has fully implemented RTI occurring at each school in order to aid our students with areas of identified need in Math and

Reading. We believe this strategy will greatly enhance our student's ability to improve any deficiencies they may have in these subject areas.

Hackett School District is also striving to improve its program of interim testing that utilizes Northwest Education Association Measurement of Academic Performance or NWEA MAP. We commonly refer to it as MAP testing within our school. We use data acquired from MAP to guide our instruction because it identifies our strengths and weaknesses by subject, grade, and student. Classroom teachers use the data to identify groups and individuals that need extra work in a certain area to raise their performance or show growth in achievement.

Hackett School District is continuing to use the "Concurrent Credits" and "WATC" programs that allow our students to graduate high school with college credits. The graduates of Hackett High School acquired several college credit hours last year and we are continuing those programs for our students to help them be more college and career ready upon graduating. Hackett School District offers all of the required Advanced Placement classes for accreditation purposes. However, the trend for students is to take advantage of concurrent classes and WATC versus enrollment in the AP classes. Hackett District encourages all parents to take time to learn as much as they can about concurrent classes and WATC. These two programs provide a tremendous opportunity for students to save thousands of dollars while earning credit toward a variety of programs of study that provide real job opportunities to future graduates.

Students in Hackett School District take all state mandated tests in accordance with state law. Students are measured for growth in achievement with the NWEA MAP Test that occurs in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. Arkansas tests 3<sup>rd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> grade students using the ACT Aspire testing and 11<sup>th</sup> grades take the ACT test. The Department of Secondary and Elementary Education or DESE waived testing during the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because there was no testing last year, DESE has not calculated school report card grades.

Student achievement in the area of mathematics is a continuing focus area of improvement for our schools. Solution Tree is a nationally, highly respected organization that has worked with our elementary teachers and we are piloting Illustrative Math in K-5<sup>th</sup> grades after having good success with this program in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades the past three years. All K-12 teachers have completed or are on track to complete requirements associated with ACT 1063 or the "Right to Read Act." Some teachers are not required to complete their training until the end of the 2021-2022 school year. All of our elementary teachers have completed RISE training.

As always, we have a goal to improve our overall student achievement in all tested areas. We continue to emphasize including STEM into our classes and curriculum. We initiated a Robotics Club for our secondary students last year and we have continued to partner with a local business that is assisting our efforts to increase STEM in our schools. Our end goal is to have students graduating our schools with an improved path to be college or career ready. The investments we have made through spending purchases, decisions made for curriculum, and strategies employed in our schools have been made with these goals in mind for our students. Specifically, we have invested heavily into our efforts to improve Reading skills through RISE, Intervention programs that target individual student's identified areas of improvement, and we have implemented a K-6

Phonics program. We are placing more focus on Math and expect to see growth in that subject area as we move forward. Lastly, we are continuing our efforts to incorporate more STEM programs into our schools through the use of Maker Space in our Media Centers, Robotics Teams, and continuing to offer a dedicated Computer Science program that includes a Drone program within it. We will compete in eSports this year for the first time.

Hackett School District also offers a well-rounded Gifted and Talented program. The Gifted and Talented Program has the following goals and objectives:

1. To provide an educational program to enable the gifted child to develop his/her abilities to the fullest potential.
2. To cultivate self-direction and self-motivation in the learning process.
3. To develop a positive and realistic self-concept.
4. To encourage becoming an individual while developing responsibility for self and society.
5. To emphasize to students the areas of productive, complex, abstract, and higher level thinking skills.
6. To enable students to interact and engage in dialogue with their intellectual peers.

The Hackett School District is continually working to provide the highest quality educational experience to all students. Our district website includes teacher pages that allow for more increased communication between parents and staff. The website includes an APP, an email, and a text feature that allows the school to contact parents in a more convenient manner rather than only using voice calls. The website can be found at <http://www.hackettschools.org>. The Hackett School District Board of Education, Administration and Staff would like to thank the parents and patrons of our district for their continued support in the improvement and success of our schools and students.