



**ISEA STEM School of Excellence Award
2018
The Mike Neden STEM Champion
Award recipient: Jessica Pianalto,
4th grade teacher**



PYRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC
October 15, 2018

Pyron Elementary School
Mission Statement:

All students will achieve academically, socially, and physically to the best of their ability. We will promote the development of successful and responsible students.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS:

ENROLLMENT:

Pyron enrollment as of Sep. 26, 2018 – 606
31 less than last year's October enrollment
177 students in 2nd grade
208 students in 3rd grade
222 students in 4th grade

GENDER:

female--298
male--308

ETHNICITY:

Asian – 8.42%, 51 students
Black – .1.82%, 11 students
Caucasian – 46.37%, 281 students
Hispanic/Latino—38.28%%, 232students
Native Am --0.33%, 2 students
Two or more races—4.79%, 29 students

ECONOMIC STATUS:

74% free/reduced meals
Serve approximately 250 breakfasts each morning
Serve approximately 580 lunches each day

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Gifted/Talented: 12 students
Special Education: 74 students
Section 504: 6 students
Alternative Classroom Instruction: 9 students
LEP (Limited English Proficient): 154 students
Migrant: 46 students

Homeless: 24 students

School choice: 26 students

Home languages: 59.41% English, 32.51% Spanish, 8.1% others

STAFF: 42 Certified Staff

32 Classified Staff including cafeteria staff and custodians

ACCREDITATION:

All certified teachers are fully accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education.

EXISTING PROGRAMS:

Pyron has fully implemented the Arkansas Department of Education standards. Our school is focusing on the following programs to effectively implement these standards:

LITERACY:

Pyron Elementary School is a R.I.S.E school meaning we participate in the statewide reading campaign with community partners, parents, and teachers to establish the importance of reading in homes, schools, and communities. With literacy as our focus we continue to use the **Accelerated Reading, Star Reading, and Istation** to supplement our reading programs. In addition, the six Title I paraprofessionals and some teachers have been trained in the Barton reading program for interventions. We are continuing to increase our classroom libraries with more books, magazines, journals, and technology accessibility through subscriptions to **Tumblebooks and Overdrive**. In second grade all students are screened for dyslexia markers with any students scoring low and not making progress referred for dyslexia interventions using the district-adopted **Barton reading system**. All teachers at Pyron are implementing the CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) reading program for core instruction.

MATH:

My Math teacher editions, student editions and digital resources are used again this year. Students are learning math concepts through research, discovery, and experimentation. We continue to use **Accelerated Math, Math Facts in a Flash, and Star Math** to supplement our math program.

COMPUTER LAB:

We are also continuing to teach our students to type correctly on the keyboard using the **Learning.com** program. We use **Renaissance and Istation products** as remediation and enrichment for all students. Students go to the computer lab one time each week to work on computer science, typing, and research skills. The computer lab is also available for teacher-led research and reporting according to schedule.

STEM and science:

Pyron is a Distinguished Project Lead the Way(PLTW) School. PLTW courses are aligned with ADE Standards for Math and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards. Courses and units are designed to complement math and science courses as well as teach computer science standards. Students use structured approaches, like the engineering design process. They apply STEM knowledge, skills, and habits of mind, and *discover that trying different approaches and solutions is an essential part of the learning process*. As teachers and students learn and discover together, education becomes more **engaging and meaningful for everyone**. For details about all PLTW Launch Modules go to <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/pltw-launch/pltw-launch-curriculum>. Pyron looks forward to participation in regional **STEM Olympiad and Robotics competitions**. Pyron now has **four new robotics competition teams**.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

We will continue to expand and improve students' experiences in the outdoor habitat and wellness. Grants helped build a **paved walking and biking trail** through the playgrounds of Pyron/Kraus. There is also a **disc golf course** along this paved trail for student/community use. The University of the Ozarks Community garden

provides fresh vegetables according to season/availability to compliment the ARVAC-funded back pack program. Work continues to be done to improve the Pyron Nature Trail and renovate the amphitheater area with PTO raising these funds.

TECHNOLOGY:

Each student is assigned a netbook to use at school. So far this school year we have replaced **multiple teacher computers, video projection units, projectors, inherited enough netbooks for all students to use, and purchased 20 ipads**. Also, Pyron student accomplishments and projects are published and highlighted with our Pyron Elementary School Info **APP, Facebook page, and Twitter feed**. Our hallways house eight TV monitors to highlight student accomplishments, math facts, or book recommendations. **The cafeteria** uses two TVs for highlighting birthdays, menu, and healthy choices. **Renaissance Home** connect letters were also sent to allow parents to view student reading progress online. Teachers use TAC (teacher access center) to enter grades and attendance and **Planbook.com** to enter lessons while the parents can view attendance, grades, and discipline with **HAC** (home access center) and view lessons with Planbook.com. Parents received a letter of HAC login instructions and password. We continue to use the **ALERT Now** call system that enables us to make mass calls to our students for announcements and emergencies. The PTO purchased the outdoor **LED sign**.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Pyron has our own ALE classroom to best serve the needs of our students who are not able to succeed in the regular classroom because of behavioral or emotional issues. This classroom will serve a maximum of 10 students. Students are placed in ALE only after pre-screening and a committee decision. ALE students can work their way back into the regular classroom.

ASSESSMENTS

All second graders will use **Istation for ISIP** (Istation's Indicators of Progress) instead of the IOWA assessment used in the past. This new way of assessing allows students to show what they know three times a year. Istation will also be used once/month in the computer lab to monitor student progress. All third and fourth graders will be assessed with **ACT Aspire** with short classroom assessments, two interim assessments, and one summative assessment in the spring. The third and fourth grade will also practice with **USA Test Prep** in the area of science.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTIONS

All Pyron teachers, with the guidance and coordination of our district examiner and LEA, are documenting student progress every two weeks and charting classroom interventions using the district data program: **SCRIPT**.

QUIZ BOWL

Our fourth grade classes participate in Quiz Bowl. We will have matches against other area schools. This program is coordinated through our Gifted and Talented program.

CHARACTER EDUCATION:

Pyron Elementary adopted the "Cub" as our mascot and the children named him "Spirit." Our CUBS logo is **Caring stUdents Believe and Succeed**. We will use this program through our new counselor Mrs. Frew to encourage good character and citizenship throughout our school and community. Students are also recognized for good character choices through Mrs. Frew's Student of the Month bulletin board and monthly CUB activities with the administrators.

CUB Cam STUDIO:

Along with our character education program comes Cub Cam. Every morning we have video broadcast of daily announcements. Students are chosen for this broadcast based on good citizenship and attendance in class. We also use Cub Cam for book talks and to show the whole school what other unique things are going on in other classes and community. The studio is housed in the music room, is complete with custom sewn backdrops, lighting panel, "teleprompter" and a special segments. These are shared through private YouTube links and staff Onedrive links.

PARENT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN:

The Pyron Parent Resource Center, now housed in the media center, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. To accommodate working parents, the Center will be open until 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Parents have access to make and take games, **six iPads**, read-along books and tapes, books, periodicals, and magazines that can be checked out and taken home. Our visitors, volunteers, and **Watch Dog** dads can now log in to our Volunteer computer in the main office upon arrival. This computer software allows the office and volunteer coordinator to know who is in the building at all times and run reports. We also have a Grandparents program, **Foster Grandparents**, which allows senior citizens an opportunity to work with students and assist teachers.

Pyron Elementary School provides opportunities each year for parents to learn about what goes on here at school. Our Parent Literacy Night is in the Fall/early winter. Families come to learn literacy/STEM strategies they can use at home through our **Gingerbread House Night**. Fourth grade is planning a **STEM night**. We are continuing to use the **Pyron App** available through School Info App at the Apple App Store or Google Play.

GOALS:

1. Continue to teach ADE Curriculum Standards and align our curriculum in math and literacy both vertically and horizontally as well as train our teachers for best strategies to improve state assessment scores and improve student growth.
2. Implement TESS (Teacher Excellence and Support System)
3. We will continue to train new staff members in R.I.S.E Science of Reading, Barton Reading, Pathwise Mentoring, and Professional Learning Community Committees.
4. We will continue to incorporate Accelerated Reading, Accelerated Math, Star Reading, and Star Math programs to increase students' math and literacy skills.
5. We will continue to research and implement proven programs and professional development to assist teachers improve student achievement.
6. We will continue to add technology to enhance instruction and learning.

Please direct any questions or comments you have about Pyron to

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