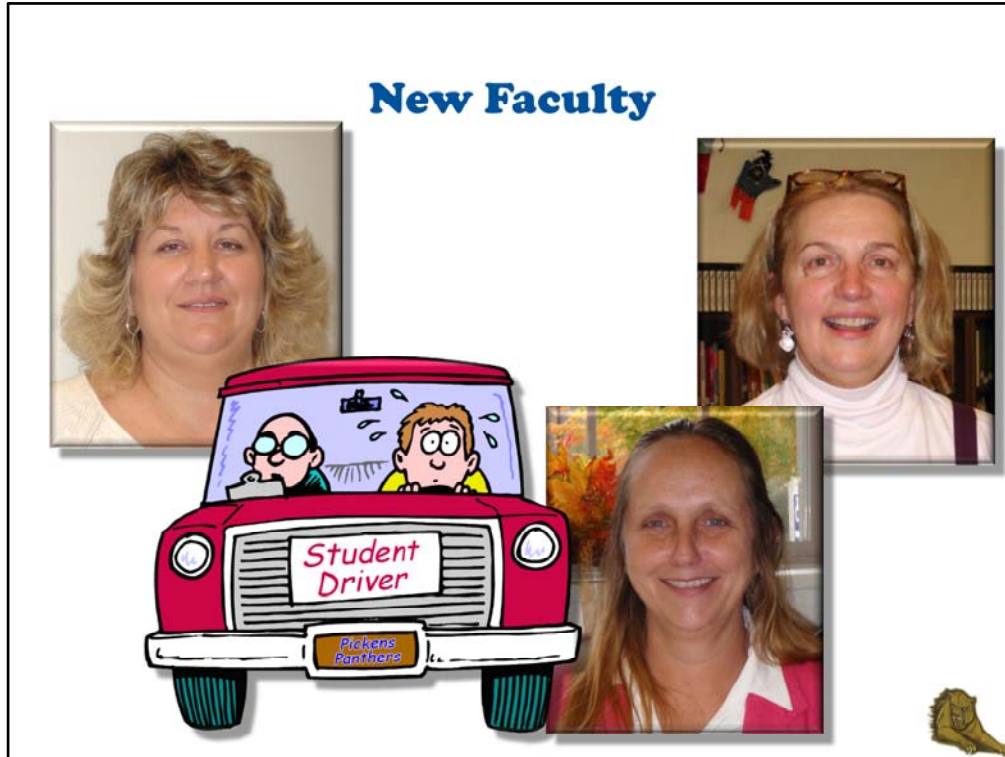


Pickens School 2009 Report



The students, faculty, staff, and parents at Pickens School have had a busy and productive year. The members of the LSIC would like to update you on improvements, achievements, and activities for the past year as well as our goals and plans for the future.



A major improvement is the addition of three new faculty members who are providing additional opportunities for students at Pickens School.

- The Family and Consumer Science teacher, Linda Barry, works with students in grades 11 and 12 on vocational technology subjects such as family finances and parenting skills.
- Christine Sneberger, the Title I teacher, assists students in kindergarten through grade 5 with reading and mathematics. Each month she provides parent workshops on topics such as "Homework Help" and "Child Development."
- Brenda Albright provides general Special Education Services to elementary students. She is a specialist in behavioral disorders and autism and is a certified CPR First Aid trainer.
- And, students are looking forward to taking driver's education from Mike Mauzy in the second semester.



GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate programs) provides learning opportunities such as tutoring, field trips, social gatherings, awards, and technologies such as computers for students, faculty, and parents. It is a six-year Federally funded program to increase the number of students from low-income areas who go on to college. Sophomores and Juniors at Pickens School participate in GEAR UP.



Pickens School students and staff have achieved many honors in the past year.

- At the county level Young Writer’s Week, students took first place for grades 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12 categories.
- Two students won Gear Up Laptop Computer Scholarships.
- A student won second place in the Martin Luther King Gear Up District Essay Contest.
- Three Gear Up Go Center participants spent 3 days at Fairmont State University learning to be student leaders.
- A parent from Pickens School was one of only five Gear Up National Parents of the Year chosen from across the United States. Betty Biggs and her children attended the National Gear Up Conference in San Francisco where Betty received her award.
- One student was an ambassador to the Hugh O’Brian West Virginia Youth Leadership Seminar, a forum which allowed him to interact with state leaders in business, industry, government, and the service sector.
- Diane Betler was recognized by the West Virginia Center for Professional Development as a Principal’s Leadership Academy Distinguished Scholar.
- Pickens School was selected for the 2009 West Virginia Exemplary School award. This is the sixth time this award has been received in the nine years since the award began.



Students participated in a number of educational and social activities including:

- The GEAR UP beginning of year bash at the Hutte Restaurant.
- The Prom and End of Year GEAR UP Bash in May.
- A presentation by Matt Shiflett of Alderson Broaddus College. This was one of many college presentations for students in grades 6 to 12.
- A Jeopardy Game on college Financial Aid provided by Adam Pratt of West Virginia Junior College. The three winners seem pleased.
- Josh Groves from Gear Up worked with students from grades 3 to 12 in the areas of study skills, careers, and college life.
- An interactive, multicultural jazz concert for Grades K to 12 was performed by David Wells.
- Maid Silvia presented information on the Forest Festival and Grade 6 to 12 students in the music class entertained her with a rendition of “Country Roads.”
- Staff from Prickett’s Fort provided multicultural training on Native American languages, games, and crafts.
- Gear Up sponsored a parent meeting on Internet Safety and Cyberbullying at the school.

Class Activities



A variety of class activities allowed students to gain new knowledge through demonstrations and new learning techniques:

- Mr. Hudok's Physics class demonstrated a machine that can send a vortex over 100 feet.
- Miss Zickefoose assisted First Graders with language development through phonemic awareness.
- The theater class wrote and produced the 2008 holiday play and the English class is currently working on this year's play.
- Juniors and Seniors sell pizzas several times each year to support trips, the yearbook, and basketball.
- Students in Kindergarten through Grade Five carved pumpkins in October.

Field Trips



Field trips allow students to participate in activities that are not available locally and to visit sites with educational value.

- Grades K to 5 participated in Kids' Day at the Park, a learning opportunity provided by the Mountain State Forest Festival.
- GEAR UP students made a field trip to the Clay Center in Charleston to see the play, "To Kill a Mockingbird." While there, they also toured West Virginia State University.
- College Day at Davis and Elkins College allowed students in Grades 9 to 12 to visit with admissions counselors from West Virginia and surrounding colleges and universities. Students also toured the College and were particularly fascinated by the Darby Historical Collection.
- Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade went to the Exhibition Coal Mine near Beckley and toured Mountain State University.
- Students and family members attended a WVU basketball game as a GEAR UP Family Activity.
- The Theater Class attended "Two Gentlemen from Verona" at Davis and Elkins College.



The speaker for the 2009 graduation was George Schell, an assistant football coach at West Virginia University. One of the two graduates has gone on to college, the other has entered the work force but plans to attend college next year. We anticipate 5 graduates in 2010. The PTSO is planning a 2010 Project Graduation lock-in party where graduates can win prizes.

Basketball



The Coed Basketball season starts in November and practice has already begun. Games will be played against churches and other small schools in the Coalton Youth Basketball League.

Professional Learning Community

WESTEST2/APTA (2009) Graphical Assessment Data
Randolph - Pickens Elementary/High School

Percentages Reading Proficiency				
	School	County	State	
None	0.00	6.09	5.37	
Below Mastery	20.00	37.65	35.91	
Mastery	46.66	38.19	38.38	
Above Master	30.00	15.60	18.08	
Distinguished	3.33	2.45	2.36	
Number Tested	38	2,778	178,246	
Proficient	70.00	66.38	63.08	

Percentages Math Proficiency				
	School	County	State	
None	0.00	11.34	10.48	
Below Mastery	23.33	31.05	30.00	
Mastery	50.00	42.72	41.70	
Above Master	23.33	11.96	11.24	
Distinguished	3.33	2.97	4.33	
Number Tested	38	2,778	178,325	
Proficient	76.66	57.58	56.48	

Percentages Science Proficiency				
	School	County	State	
None	4.76	4.95	6.44	
Below Mastery	23.00	42.78	40.00	
Mastery	61.95	48.77	49.00	
Above Master	9.52	3.17	4.23	
Distinguished	0.00	0.32	0.41	
Number Tested	21	2,348	138,588	
Proficient	71.43	62.29	61.64	

Percentages Social Studies Proficiency				
	School	County	State	
None	0.00	9.53	9.09	
Below Mastery	33.33	36.43	35.91	
Mastery	30.00	35.09	35.51	
Above Master	23.33	15.54	16.82	
Distinguished	13.33	3.38	3.76	
Number Tested	38	2,748	174,418	
Proficient	66.66	54.01	56.08	

The faculty at Pickens school has become a working Professional Learning Community this school year. This community performs data analysis and researches best practices to achieve better results for the students. The group focuses on student learning and parent and community involvement. During the first PLC meeting, the faculty did WESTEST 2 analysis. Even though Pickens students scored above county and state proficiency levels, the group looked at areas of weakness in reading, primarily at grades 3-8, and discussed interventions and strategies to increase WESTEST scores.

Graduate Survey

How satisfied are you with the following areas at Pickens School? (Please use the following 5 point scale.) 1. Very Dissatisfied. 2. Dissatisfied. 3. Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied. 4. Satisfied. 5. Very Satisfied

- English, Reading, and Grammar: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
- Sciences: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
- Mathematics: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.



In the Spring of 2009, the LSIC, with support from the PTSO, surveyed the students who graduated in the past 10 years. The response rate was 42%. As the survey covered a spread of time, trends could be seen in addition to the averages.

Graduate Survey Results

Science: 3.60

Math: 3.00

Technology: 3.11

Library: 3.80

Music & Art: 3.56

Extra Curricular: 3.40

English, Reading, Grammar: 5.0

Writing: 4.90

Foreign Languages: 4.20

Social Studies: 4.10

Physical Education: 4.50

Advising: 4.30

Career Counseling: 4.10

Administration: 4.10

Community Service: 4.44



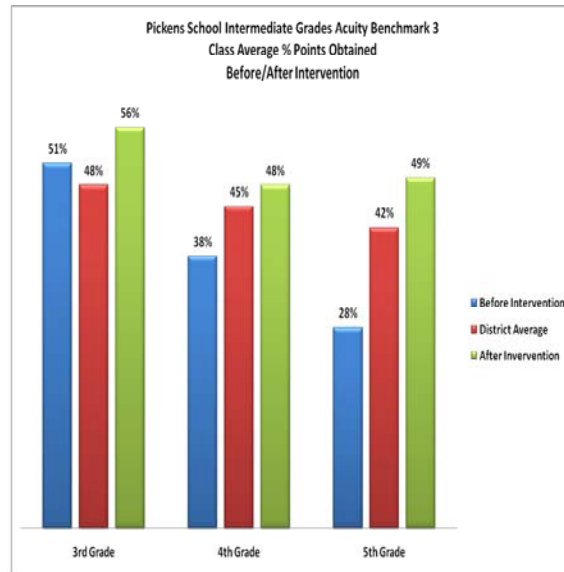
Satisfaction with academic areas was high except for Science and Math, with scores for Science improving in recent years. Satisfaction with Technology, Library, Music and Art, and Extra Curricular Activities were also below 4.0 on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being high. Thus, English, Reading, and Grammar; Writing; Foreign Languages; Social Studies; Physical Education; Advising; Career Counseling, Administration, and Community Service Opportunities were above 4. It is worth noting that no area was below 3.0. Respondents felt that there was high respect among teachers and students and no one reported ever feeling bullied or mistreated. Students felt they developed good study and work skills.

Respondents took the time to write, often extensively, about the greatest challenges they faced after graduation, classes they wished they could have taken, ways in which they felt prepared or unprepared for life after graduation, and they recommended changes or improvements for Pickens School. All respondents would have their children attend Pickens School if the opportunity were available.



Based on information from the survey and input from current students and staff, the LSIC has chosen three areas to work on in the current year: Mathematics, Technology, and Recreation.

Mathematics Plans and Goals



Pickens School faculty have developed an *Action Research Project on Improving Math Achievement* in Grades 3 to 12 with the goal of increasing informal and standardized test scores for all students in those grades. A specific goal is increasing WESTEST results by 10 percentage points. Interventions are in place and benchmark tests show improvement has begun. The Title I Program in grades K-5 is also providing math interventions. An additional goal for improving math achievement is to reduce the teacher load to two grades at the elementary levels.

Technology Plans and Goals



In the area of Technology, Pickens School plans to obtain a powerful laptop computer that can be checked out by students. A donated set of software including InDesign (desktop publishing), Premiere (video editing), Dreamweaver (Web site development), and Photoshop (photo editing and graphic arts) will be installed on the computer and introductory classes to each piece of software will be provided. It has been noted that students who have been raised in the digital age quickly master technologies when they are made available to them.

Recreation Plans and Goals



A recreation project that has been undertaken is the development of a multi-use area near the school. The new school building, by necessity, was built on the existing ball field leaving students with greatly reduced recreational opportunities. The multi-use recreational area can be used for baseball, archery, walking, and other activities. The land is being cleared by volunteers with the State Road and PTSO also providing assistance.

Needs



The LSIC requests three improvements for Pickens School. First, additional classrooms are needed. While two additional rooms were included in the original plan for the new building, they had to be dropped due to budget limitations. This has resulted in social needs classes being held in the same rooms as kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade.

Second, an additional elementary teacher is needed. Currently, three grade levels are included in each classroom at K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 levels. The current grade configuration does not allow adequate time to meet the needs of each grade level.

Third, fill dirt and landscaping materials are needed to complete the multi-use recreational area. Volunteers have donated many hours to the project and are ready to complete it when materials become available.

Our School



Pickens School is a community. This community includes students, faculty, staff, parents, and other local residents. The members of this community achieve honors, engage in learning activities, play sports, and volunteer. In addition, community members identify issues and develop solutions. This is education.

LSIC Members



The Pickens School LSIC hopes that you find this information useful for understanding activities and goals at Pickens School. We are eager to work with you to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for our children. We are Brenda Albright, Teacher of Special Education; Diane Betler, Principal and half-time classroom teacher for grades 3-5; Betty Biggs, Service Personnel (Cook); Emily Biggs, Student in the Junior class; Velda Booth, Parent; Melissa Browning, Parent; Chuck Chandler, Parent; John Coleman, Service Personnel (Bus Driver); Donna Knotts, Teacher of Reading, Language Arts, and English as well as Guidance Counselor and Gear Up Site Coordinator; Sam Knotts, Community Member and owner of Appalachian Fly Fishing Guide Service, representing business; Wanda Scott, Teacher for grades K-2; Christine Sneberger, Elementary Title I teacher; Tonia Tiffner, Parent and Homebound Tutor; Charles "Smoke" Toms, Community Member; and Dave Whipp, Community Member representing technology. We thank you very much.