

The Wildcat Connection

Neosho R-5 School District

Fall Edition: Fall 2010

Distinction in Performance Announcement

State education officials have released preliminary Annual Performance Reports, or APRs, for Missouri school districts, providing the earliest look to date at how districts are meeting annual state standards for academic performance. The reports are now available to the public on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website. The APR data is preliminary, say state education officials, and the reports will not be finalized until October. The Annual Performance Report is the measure that the state of Missouri uses to evaluate its schools. Fourteen performance standards have been established by DESE. Districts are evaluated using status and progress measures to determine if a standard is met. During the 4th Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP) Cycle,

performance determines the accreditation level of a school district.

Published each year since 2000, the APR provides a progress report on how each school district is doing, as measured by the fourteen performance standards that are the cornerstone of Missouri's accreditation requirements for all public schools. The fourteen standards cover measures such as test scores (state-required MAP and end-of-course tests), attendance and graduation rates, ACT test scores, and other academic indicators.

To be fully accredited, a K-12 school district must meet at least nine of the fourteen accreditation standards for academic performance and at least six to be provisionally accredited. To be designated as a district receiving "Distinction in Performance," a

district must have met at least thirteen standards on the Annual Performance Report, including all six academic standards. Preliminary notification from DESE indicates that Neosho met fourteen standards for the 2009-2010 school year! Based on this criteria, Neosho has received the "Distinction in Performance" designation for the past three years, and anticipates receiving it for the 2009-2010 school year!

The Neosho R-5 School District is striving for excellence. As a result of this effort on the part of the administration and staff, the district made many academic accomplishments during the past year!

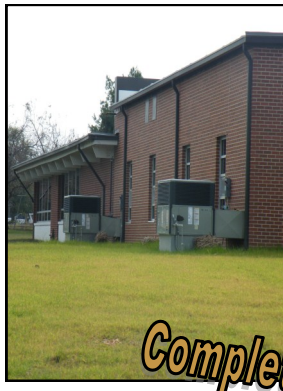
For more information on this accreditation and on the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, please visit their website at www.dese.mo.gov.

Quick Facts:

- 5 elementary schools
- 1 middle school
- 1 junior/senior high school
- 1 alternative school
- 1 early childhood center
- 1 parents as teachers program

- 4,227 Students
- 701 Employees
- 600 families enrolled in Parents As Teachers
- 139 children in the preschool program
- 3.25 to 1 Student-to-computer ratio
- 500,000 square feet of buildings to maintain

- 225 square miles in district boundaries
- 2,500 students transported by bus each day
- 643,000 miles traveled by buses each year
- 3,002 school lunches served daily
- 927 school breakfasts served daily
- 75% of students in free/reduced lunch program



Completed!

Goodman Elementary was in need of more classroom space, in order to safely place all their students and staff under one roof. After an official bid process, Branco Construction provided their expertise and began the project. By the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year, all construction was complete and students returned to school with new classrooms! Parents no longer need to worry whether or not their child will be in an outdoor classroom!

SMARTBoards are now successfully installed in all core classrooms in the Neosho School District! A HUGE thanks to the Neosho Charitable Foundation for their generous donations and making this possible! What a great advancement in the technology available to our students and teachers! We also would like to thank GNA Technologies for installing the SMARTBoards in the high school and junior high this past summer!



Completed!

Check out the new look of our website at: www.neoshopublicschools.net

NEOSHO Wildcats

A Clear and Focused Mission—From Dr. Richard Page

The Neosho School District has made some great strides in all areas. Academically, the school district has been recognized with Distinction in Performance for the last four years. This recognition is a direct result of a focused vision and mission that has changed the culture of our school. Student achievement has always been important, but today more than ever. The district uses student achievement data as a measurement of success. This process has continued to evolve into more successful instructional strategies and an increase in staff development. The overall goal is for all students to score at the proficient and advanced level on the state assessments and that upper level colleges and career placement opportunities are afforded to them.

Along with the academic vision, I believe it is important to provide experiences that enhance the social, emotional, and talented aspects of our students. To accomplish this, the district provides an array of extracurricular and co-curricular activities. These activities are led by instructors that are proven leaders in their fields. With their leadership, the programs are designed to bring out the best in our students. The students are driven to compete with previous years' accomplishments, so as to build the tradition of success. This is seen through the national and state award winners that have been a part of these successful organizations. I believe our vision of educating the whole child is only accomplished through outstanding staff and high expectations built from past successes.

These areas have been my vision from the beginning and I believe we are moving in that direction. It is important that we continue to develop the whole child by making every child's education a positive experience, thereby building a worthy and successful future. The future of our community and our country depends on well-educated and well-rounded students. Our school district is becoming the best at making this happen.



SWAEC At-Risk Programs

The Southwest Alternative Education Center has served at-risk students for 15 years. They currently serve 60 high school students in grades 9 through 12 from McDonald County and the Neosho R-5 School District. Two hundred plus graduates have earned credits through the SWAEC and received high school diplomas from their sending schools. This year, the SWAEC has diversified in an attempt to meet the needs of an increasing amount of students dropping out of high school.

Missouri Option is a program offered on the SWAEC campus to students who are 17 years of age and unable to earn enough credits to graduate with their cohort class. Missouri Option students are required to spend fifteen hours in the classroom and fifteen hours working per week, in order to meet the requirements. During their seat time, students undergo intense instructional

remediation in preparation to conquer the GED test. Once the students have passed the GED, their class time requirement ends, but their work load must pick up to 30 hours per week. These students are now high school graduates and have the opportunity to walk with the current year's graduating class to grasp that once elusive high school diploma!

FLEX is now offered through the Southwest Alternative Education Center to all Neosho High School and SWAEC High School juniors and seniors. This program offers elective credits to students who are working and attending school at the same time, giving them the opportunity to support themselves and others while pursuing a high school diploma. We are addressing those at-risk students who get pulled out of high school due to the necessity to work.

The Transitional Learning Center (TLC) is

housed on our campus and serves students who have been suspended from school for violations of school rules and/or policies. In the past, these students were sent home and not allowed to make up any work they missed while serving out-of-school suspension, causing them to get behind in credits needed to graduate. Addressing the correlation between absences and academic success, suspended students now have the opportunity to serve their suspensions in TLC with the ability to earn 100% of all class work completed while in attendance.

All four at-risk programs are served by a staff of six certified teachers, a secretary, and the director. All students have access to high quality teachers and support from a team that has genuine concern for every student's success, both in academics and character development.



Wildcat Connections

At the Neosho R-5 School District, we are dedicated to providing a successful learning environment for our students. One way we feel this is accomplished actually takes place outside the walls of the school buildings. It has to do with the community and their connection with the school district!

We are constantly looking for new avenues through which to promote school and student accomplishments and character traits, in order to create a sense of school pride in our community. The support of local businesses can create a "Wildcat Connection" between community members and our wonderful school district! Two programs have been set up by the school district to begin this connection. Wildcat Character Partners and The Wildcat Connection.

Wildcat Character Partners are businesses that participate with the school district in the PAWS (Positive Attitudes Worth Sharing) character education effort. PAWS is a process for teaching our students the importance of having good character and help-

ing them develop into good citizens and quality employees who positively contribute to making our community a wonderful place to live and work. The program has received national character awards the past two years for promising practices! Each month, the school district emphasizes a designated character trait. All the school buildings focus on the same character trait and use the same definition. If they choose to join in on this effort, they receive an email at the beginning of each month stating the character trait for that month, definition of the trait, character affirmation, and suggestions on how to incorporate the trait in their daily business routine. They can display the trait on their marquee, use it as a screen saver on their computers, display the trait around their business, and so many other ways!

The Wildcat Connection is a way to connect the community to the school district by providing information on schools, students, staff, and community involvement. This happens in two ways. One way is

through a newsletter, which is created on a monthly basis, outlining some of the stories, accomplishments, and events that had gone on the month before. This newsletter is appropriately named, "The Wildcat Connection"! It can be found on our website by clicking The Wildcat Connection link. The other way is once again through the businesses that have electronic marquees or changeable signs in front. They will be emailed periodically throughout the school year asking them to post congratulatory messages regarding student and/or school accomplishments.

To become a Wildcat Character Partner and/or to be a part of The Wildcat Connection, please e-mail Melissa Thomas, Public Relations/Information Specialist for the school district, at thomasmelissa@neosho.k12.mo.us. You can also find information on both efforts on our website, www.neoshopublicschools.net.

Here are some things we have accomplished...

Our Speech & Debate Team has been district champions for the past nine years in a row. They are the only Speech & Debate Team in Missouri to win the School of Excellence Award at the National Speech & Debate Tournament. In 2010, they placed first in the nation in accumulated rounds, and won the Bruno E. Jacob Award at the National Forensic League National Speech and Debate Tournament.

Our Wrestling Team won their first ever State Championship in 2010. This is the

third plaque brought home from the state tournament; 4th place in 2008, 2nd place in 2009, and State Champions in 2010.

The Wildcat Cross Country team has two outstanding lady runners. They are ranked 1st and 2nd in the State of Missouri and 3rd and 9th in the Nation! The coach, Harry Lineberry, has coached in Neosho for over 25 years, was inducted in the Missouri Coaches Hall of Fame, has led two teams to state championship, and many more awards! The Neosho Wildcat Band continues, year

after year, to perform very well in competitions and shows. Although they are rewarded for their hard work, their biggest reward is seeing students grow musically and do what they love! Each year brings more members and success!

These are just a few of the many great things we have accomplished in the Neosho School District. To see more, check out the "Why choose us" link on the home page of our website!

FIND US ON...



Facebook: Neosho Schools



Twitter: NeoshoR5SD



www.neoshopublicschools.net

You can keep up on the latest hustle and bustle going on at all of the schools in the district. Facebook and Twitter are updated at least once every hour with scheduled events and activities and the website has contact information, links to news articles, podcasts, calendar of district and school events, homework assignments for high school and junior high students, and so much more! Come check us out through any or all of these methods!

Just one more way to keep the community connected to their Wildcats! Go Neosho!

Neosho R-5 School District
 Central Administration Office
 511 Neosho Boulevard
 Neosho, Missouri 64850

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 Neosho, MO
 Permit No. 4



"The mission of the Neosho R-5 School District, is to facilitate learning, to nurture individual potential, and to assist students to believe in themselves through successful learning experiences."



District Contact Information

Superintendent of Schools	George Washington Carver Elementary 417-451-8690
Assistant Superintendent of Business/ Finance	Parents as Teachers 417-451-8632
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/ Instruction	Goodman Elementary 417-364-7216 417-451-8680
Director of Special Services	South Elementary 417-451-8640
Director of Transportation	Southwest Alternative Education Center 417-451-8616
Director of Maintenance	Neosho Middle School 417-451-8650
Director of Technology	Neosho Junior High School 417-451-8660
Director of Food Service	Neosho Senior High School 417-451-8670
Benton Elementary School	Neosho R-5 School District 511 Neosho Boulevard Neosho, MO 64850 417-451-8600 Fax 417-451-8604
Central Elementary School	
Field Early Childhood Center	

School Board Snippet

Although our students and staff have been in class for several weeks now, "back to school" time for the members of the R-5 Board of Education, is October. Every October, board members attend the Missouri School Boards' Association Conference held in Osage Beach, Missouri.

The many sessions offered cover topics in Board Operations and Governance, Contemporary Issues in Education, Student Achievement, and School Law and Finance. Representatives from school districts across the state share best practices from their districts. During the conference, each R-5 board member separately selects several sessions to attend. Then, at the end of the conference, we share with each other the programs, procedures, or ideas that we believe are the most exciting or that would be of benefit to the Neosho R-5 School District. Our current WATCH D.O.G.S program is an example of a program that was initiated after a board member attended an MSBA conference and learned about this very successful plan to get dads involved as role models and helpers in our middle school and elementary schools.

Your Neosho R-5 School Board Members believe that education is a life long pursuit, and so the October MSBA conference is a very exciting time for us to go "back to school" and continue learning about how to make our schools better.

- Cindy Norman
 School Board President