

# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

**Administration**  
Dr. Evelyn Browne, *Superintendent*  
Charles Jones, *Principal*  
Kari Gifford, *Activities Director*  
Christopher Cooper, *Guidance*

*“Preparing the students of today for the world of tomorrow!”*

*“Small IS beautiful!”* I am proud to highlight the advantages enjoyed by students and families engaged in learning and living in a small community. The challenges of being “too small” fade in comparison to the logistical nightmares faced by larger districts in Nebraska and across the country this year. With extreme appreciation for the support, cooperation, care, and extra work by our staff, students, families, and governing Board, I am delighted to reflect on our accomplishments this year and to share them with all of our patrons in the Annual Report.

When our school was forced to close abruptly on March 16th, 2020, classroom devices such as laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks were deployed to every BCS student so they could access learning from home. Principal Jones and I worked with Internet service providers to ensure that students could connect to remote instruction. Our teachers transitioned to Zoom, Google Classroom, and other online programs to replace face-to-face instruction “on a dime!” Within two weeks of the closure, a remote learning schedule was in place, which continued until the end of the year.

Our daily breakfast and lunch program became a “Meals on Wheels” delivery service with the added benefit of connecting students to school by seeing their bus drivers arrive with “take-out.” Funding through the USDA allowed us to extend meal delivery throughout the summer. We prepared and delivered 8,950 meals from March 30th to August 5th!

With our “Return to Learn” protocols in place, we opened in August for 100% in-class instruction—with much joy on the parts of students, parents, and teachers! At the mid-year point, we are gratified that our protocols have had a positive impact on both student academics and extra-curricular activities. Students participated in cross-country, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, One Act, Speech, FFA, MathCounts, STUCO, NHS, and Spelling Bee!

Optional Enrichment Fridays (OEFs) continue this year, as do our partnerships with WNCC and UNL 4H Extension. Our very first 1st Lego League team and OSHA 10 certified students are just two examples of the added value OEFs bring to BCS students.

Preparing our students for the “world of tomorrow” includes empowering them to be both willing and excited to learn. The ability to adapt to change and having a growth mindset are attributes for success that we hope to cultivate in our students through diversified programming and scaffolded supports. As we continue to build on tradition while looking ahead to the future, I invite your ideas and welcome your contributions. It is an exciting time for education! I look forward to our continuing partnership to serve the students of Banner County School!

Yours in education,

  
Evelyn Browne, Ed.D.

## Board of Education

Dr. Ronald E. Johnson, *President*  
Douglas Olsen, *Vice-President*  
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BCS is fully accredited by  
AdvancED, North Central  
Association of Colleges and  
Schools, Commission on  
Accreditation, and the Ne-  
braska Dept. of Education.

Banner County School

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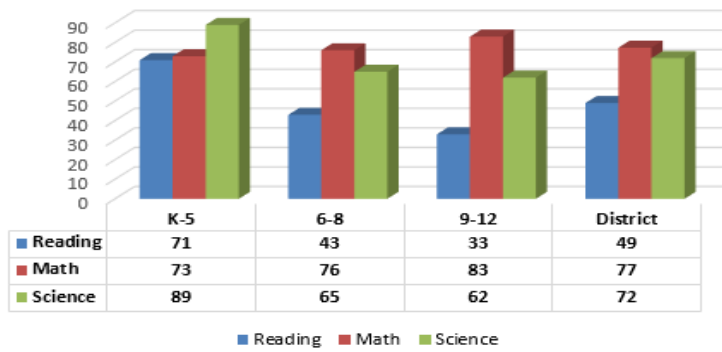
Twitter: @BannerWildcats

## District Report Card 2019-2020

Elementary & High School = GREAT! Middle School = GOOD!

There were no state assessments in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19. Student growth data from the NWEA—Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) district assessments from Fall 2020 to Winter 2021 indicate positive academic growth!

**Fall to Winter MAP Assessments  
% Students Met/Exceeded Growth Goals**



## Student Demographics

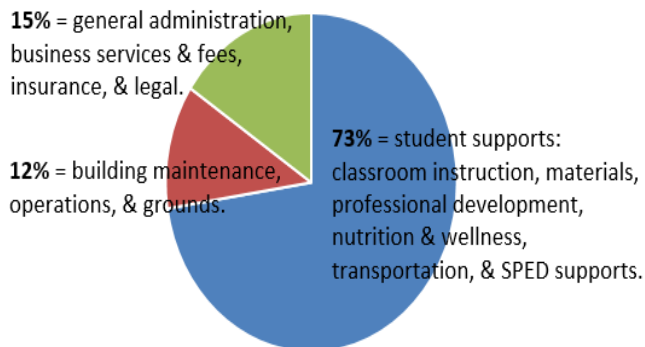
Resident Students	95
Option Students	53
Total	148
Free & Reduced Lunch	53%
Special Education	15%
English Learners (ELLs)	2%
Student Mobility	12.8%
Graduation Rate	100%
Hispanic/Latino	16%
Black/African American	1%
High Ability Learners	8%
Per pupil cost	\$26,818

Class	Size
PK	12
K	13
1	8
2	8
3	15
4	11
5	15
6	7
7	10
8	10
9	11
10	12
11	10
12	6
<b>Ave.</b>	<b>11</b>

## SCHOOL FINANCE

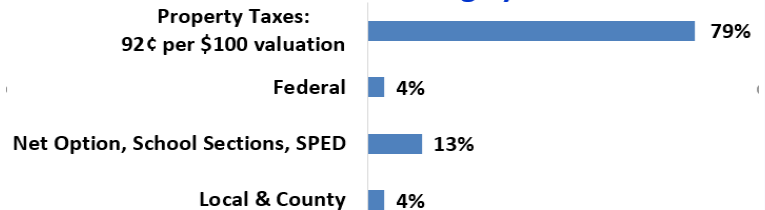
### Distribution of Operating Budget

Total = \$3,969,000



	19-20	20-21
General Fund Budget Authority	\$4,461,534	\$4,619,568
Property Valuation	\$308,136,897	\$304,749,382
Property Tax (GF)	\$2,698,381	\$2,746,977
Building Fund Tax	\$80,808	\$50,505
Tax Levy	0.902	.918

### School District Funding by Source



## STAFF

Administrators—2  
 Teachers—22      Guidance— 1  
 Library Aide—1      Custodial/Maintenance—2  
 School Nurse—1      Paraprofessionals—5  
 Bus Drivers —7      Tech Support—1  
 Kitchen Staff—3      Part time—3  
 Teachers with Master's Degrees—43%  
 Teachers with 5+ years' experience—78%  
 Student-Teacher Ratio— 7:1

## TRANSPORTATION

BCS operates 7 bus routes of approximately 40 miles each. The annual pupil transportation budget of \$201,000 includes the purchase of a new 30 passenger school bus this year—50% of the cost will be reimbursed through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy! We have 6 staff members with CDLs, 2 substitute bus drivers with CDLs, 6 staff members certified to drive a small bus, and 5 staff members certified to drive activities in small vehicles. We provide home to school transportation across the county, with stops in Kimball, Gering, and Scottsbluff for Option students from these areas. Our drivers have driven 73,941 miles safely and without accident or incident so far this year!