

# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

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

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

Dear families and patrons of Banner County School,

When I started my tenure as superintendent, Banner County School was experiencing historically low student enrollment rates, the loss of all varsity sports, and dwindling community support. I was charged with leading our district in changes that would have a positive impact on learning, morale, and engagement. Improvements have been realized with the support of our Board Members and the efforts and contributions of the BCS staff. With student enrollment up by 18%, it is my pleasure to share some of our achievements as a school community.

Changes have directly impacted student learning and preparation for success in the world. We have aligned our K-8 math program by adopting GoMath as the foundation of our mathematics learning. Our focus on reading improvement in the elementary grades is supported by a full-time Reading Interventionist and aligning our K-5 reading program. Additionally, all students in grades K through 12 enjoy the incentives offered to encourage independent reading through our Accelerated Reader Road program. AR Road is generously supported by donations from area businesses and the contributions of friends and families of BCS.

Opportunities for middle and high school students continue to expand due to our ability to provide flexible scheduling and our partnerships with WNCC and ESU13. We have also expanded our Career and Technical Education offerings, which now include Computer Science, Ag Science, Industrial Arts, Business, Entrepreneurship, Health Science, Food Science, Human Development, Teaching Experience, and Ag Business.

In 2020 we completed a Strategic Planning process that developed actions to support the district’s goals and objectives. Accelerated by the need for 1:1 technology for instruction during the pandemic, every student in BCS now has access to a personal learning device (iPad, Chromebook, or laptop). Classrooms have access to advanced tools for instruction in the form of ClearTouch interactive boards. Technology purchases over the last three years were included in the district’s awarded grants totaling nearly \$1.3 million.

The decision to move to a 4-day school week was key to increasing our Option enrollment. Increased high school enrollment brought back all varsity sports programs. Optional Enrichment Fridays (OEFs) made the 4-day school week appealing to both families and staff. Students who attend OEF benefit from a healthy breakfast and lunch five days a week and enrichment opportunities. Teaching staff benefit from time for planning and professional development.

Our 67-year-old-facility is due for some TLC – which will come in the form of an Energy Savings Contract with AMERESCO. A year in the making, we are now entering the planning and implementation phase of the project.

Change presents opportunity. We look forward to welcoming a new principal next year and new instructional and support staff. We will continue to provide innovative programming that meets both the learning needs and the career aspirations of our students in a supportive environment.

Yours in education,  
Evelyn Browne, Ed.D.

## Board of Education

Dr. Ronald E. Johnson, <i>President</i>	Megan Allen
Douglas Olsen, <i>Vice-President</i>	Laura Baker
Jake Knaub, <i>Treasurer</i>	Bret Jeffries

**Banner County School**

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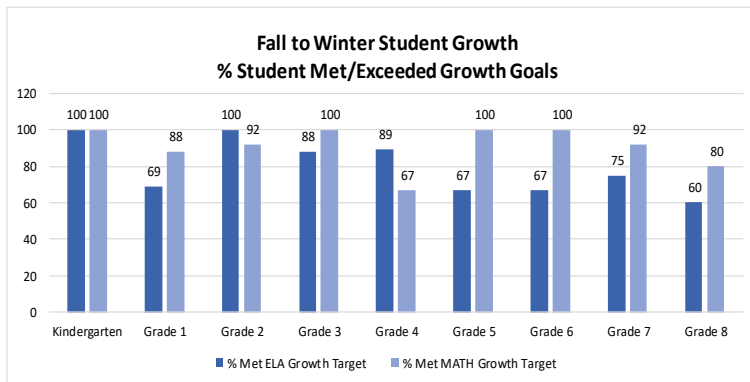
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## Student Academic Growth—K-8

Nebraska Dept. of Education uses NSCAS Growth, an adaptive, through-year assessment for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, grades 3-8. NSCAS Growth assesses the progression and growth of the student based on the year end standards for their grade level. We give the NWEA MAP test in the fall, winter and spring. The state has done some comparison between the NWEA MAP and the NSCAS. Although they are slightly different assessments, we are able to estimate the number of students who met their projected growth from the fall to the mid-year point, based on the state's research. Assessment data helps us support instruction with results that are actionable at both the classroom and systems levels.



The State Average of overall proficiency (Grades 3-8) is **47% in ELA** and **46% in Math** based upon the scores of students achieving the "On Track" and "Advanced" levels.

	21-22	22-23
General Fund Budget Authority	\$5,123,894	\$4,437,082
Property Valuation	\$299,643,019	\$309,947,739
Property Tax (GF)	\$2,553,445	\$2,657,822
Building Fund Tax	\$101,010	\$50,505
Total Tax Levy (per \$100)	0.885	0.874

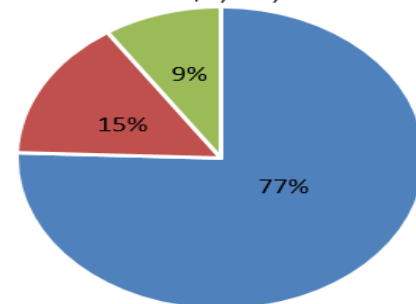
## OUR STUDENTS

Resident Students	97
Option Students	52
Total	149
Free & Reduced Lunch	74%
Special Education	16%
English Learners (ELLs)	1%
Student Mobility	6.54%
Graduation Rate	100%
Hispanic/Latino	16%
African Am./Am. Indian	1%
High Ability Learners	18%
Per pupil cost	\$32,466

Class	Size
PK	11
K	12
1	16
2	13
3	8
4	9
5	9
6	12
7	12
8	5
9	7
10	10
11	14
12	8
<b>Ave.</b>	<b>10</b>

## SCHOOL FINANCE

Distribution of Operating Budget  
Total = \$4,437,082



■ Students ■ Administration ■ Facilities

## STAFF

Administrators—2

Teachers—23      Guidance—1

Library Aide—1      Custodial/Maintenance—2

School Nurse—1      Paraprofessionals—5

Bus Drivers—6      Tech Support—1

Kitchen Staff—2      Part time Custodians—2

Teachers with Master's Degrees—14

Teachers with 5+ years' experience—16

Student-Teacher Ratio— 6:1      State Ave—14:1

## TRANSPORTATION

BCS operates 6 bus routes with door-to-school service in the county and stops in Gering, Scottsbluff, and Kimball. The annual pupil transportation budget of \$185,900 supports both route and activity trips for students. At the mid-year point, our drivers have travelled 86,032 miles safely. We have 5 staff members with CDLs, 4 staff members certified to drive a small bus, and 2 substitute bus drivers with CDLs. All staff members who drive small vehicles for activities complete the trainings required in Nebraska. Finding qualified bus drivers, for both regular routes and as substitutes, continues to be a challenge. The district is an approved FMSCA training site and Tod Wenger, our Driver Education instructor, can certify drivers in the ELDT on-site. We will also reimburse all costs associated with obtaining a CDL to potential drivers with signed contracts.