

**2023-2024**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL**

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

***"Preparing the students of today for the world of tomorrow!"***

Dear families and patrons of Banner County School,

It is my pleasure to share this Annual Report and mid-year reflection on our school community! The school year has been busy with a very full roster of activities and sports. Our reading incentive program, AR Road, continues to get students from Kindergarten to High School into books and set personal reading goals. Monthly school-wide assemblies have recognized students nominated for "Student of the Month" and "Shout Outs!" to elementary students caught doing random acts of kindness. The Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) program, first in the Panhandle, aims to develop leadership and job readiness skills among middle and high school students.

We continue to work towards aligning academic programs across grades levels and publishing the curriculum for each subject. Our web-site, which is still undergoing some fine-tuning, will ultimately house the curriculum. My goal is to have all curricula and course information accessible on the web-site by the end of the summer.

Across Nebraska, the importance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) is central to many conversations about school-based opportunities and preparation for life beyond high school. While funding for program components such as materials and supplies is important (BCS received about \$14,000 in CTE funding this year), having talented teachers, industry partners, and flexible scheduling are the keys to giving our students options and opportunities to explore a variety of career paths. We hope to expand the choices for entry level certifications through our partnership with Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) for our students. Two of our programs, FFA and HEC, continue to provide real-world experiences for students. FFA students completed the construction of a greenhouse this year and High Energy Cappuccino has extended their morning coffee service at the walk-up window to Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays.

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, we have managed to reduce the property tax levy while improving programs and embarking on a major facilities upgrade. Our partnership with AMERESCO takes advantage of 1% financing that will save energy dollars, improve the aesthetic appearance of our classrooms and halls, and keep the snow melt from seeping into classrooms! We look forward to the project's completion by the end of the summer.

This year, we welcomed ten new staff members! While staffing continues to be a challenge across the state and teacher recruitment and retention a topic of many school administrator conversations, we are fully staffed from the principal's office to PK! Learning new roles and responsibilities, developing academic and activity schedules, and supporting each other amidst all of the change are testimony to the dedication of our staff to our students and our school. BCS is a wonderful place to learn, work, and play!

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>	

**Banner County School**

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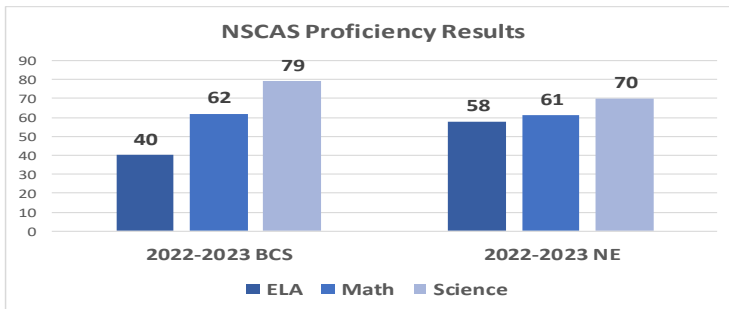
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bannerwildcats/](http://www.facebook.com/bannerwildcats/)

## Student Academic Growth—K-8

Nebraska Dept. of Education uses NSCAS Growth, an adaptive, assessment of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8 and Science in grades 5 & 8. NSCAS Growth assesses the progression and growth of students based on the year end standards for their grade level, reported as Developing, On Track, and Advanced.

NSCAS results are reported as averages, which gives us a bird's eye view of student growth, but do not represent the individual student growth achieved in our small classes. When we look at the data, we see students who have met or exceeded expectations, and despite reports of learning loss due to COVID from many parts of the country, most of our students' learning is "On Track."

Assessment data help us support students by making adjustments to instruction, program materials, and allocation of teaching and support staff. Our data indicate BCS students are headed in the right direction—exceeding the State proficiency averages in both Math and Science.



	23-24	22-23
General Fund Budget Authority	\$5,123,894	\$5,200,882
Property Valuation	\$330,722,063	\$309,947,739
Property Tax (GF)	\$2,614,736	\$2,657,822
Building Fund Tax	\$143,182	\$50,505
Total Tax Levy (per \$100)	0.834	0.874

## STAFF

Administrators—2  
 Teachers—21      Guidance— 1  
 Library Aide—1      Custodial/Maintenance—2  
 School Nurse—1      Paraprofessionals—5  
 Kitchen Staff—2      Tech Support— .5  
 Bus drivers—8      Part time Custodians—2  
 Teachers with Master's Degrees—10  
 Teachers with 5+ years' experience— 18  
 Student-Teacher Ratio— 7:1      State Ave—14:1

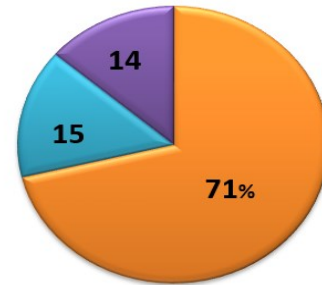
## OUR STUDENTS

Resident Students	101
Option Students	43
Total	144
Free & Reduced Lunch	62%
Special Education	17%
English Learners (ELLs)	1%
Student Mobility	1.9%
Graduation Rate	100%
Hispanic/Latino	22%
African Am./Am. Indian	1%
High Ability Learners	16%
Per pupil cost	\$31,665

Class	Size
PK	8
K	9
1	13
2	19
3	9
4	8
5	8
6	11
7	9
8	13
9	8
10	9
11	9
12	11
Ave.	10

## SCHOOL FINANCE

### Distribution of GF Expenditure



Students Administration Facilities

## TRANSPORTATION

BCS operates 8 bus routes with door-to-school service in the county and stops in Gering 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 87,284 miles safely. We have 5 staff members with CDLs, 5 staff members certified to drive a small bus, and 3 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.