

Viola School District

2023 Report to the Public

District Community Outreach Tools

www.violalonghorns.org / Facebook Page – VSD#15 / Viola School District #15 Phone App

Enrollment

378 students –November 7th

- Elementary = 194 (-22 from October 2022)
- High School = 184 (+7 from October 2022)

New Staff / New Positions

Certified

- Renea Houghtaling – 1st Grade Teacher
- Jessica Gardner – HS Math Teacher
- Sonya Hammond – HS Special Ed Teacher
- Rachel Stone – Career Coach / GT Coordinator

Classified

- Ashleigh Sanders – Lunchroom
- Gail Hart – Bus Driver
- Tony Shockey – Bus Driver
- Robert Allen – Bus Mechanic

Board Members

- Position #5 - Charlie Wray - President (member through 2025)
- Position #2 - Dustin Cotter - Vice President (member through 2027)
- Position #3 – Farra Rowden - Secretary (member through 2028)
- Position #4 - Ken Cotter (member through 2024)
- Position #1 - Darick Brown (member through 2026)

School Board Member In-service

Veteran board members must get 6 hours of inservice each year. New board members have until December 31 of their second calendar year to get 9 hours of inservice. Viola's board members were in compliance with this law for the 2022-2023 school year and all **members have met or exceeded their required amount of training since this law went into effect**. This year's first inservice training was held via Zoom meeting by the Arkansas Public School Resource Center on September 29th. An additional training was presented by Michael McBryde from Stephens bank on October 25th.

Asbestos Update

There are buildings on campus which contain some asbestos materials. However, the district has a management plan to safely control the asbestos. Anyone with questions about the plan should contact the superintendent's office. **We are in full compliance with all regulations regarding asbestos on our campus.**

Personnel Policies for Certified & Classified Employees

Viola School District's policies are based on the Arkansas School Board Association Model Policies. They can be found on our District Website by clicking on "State Required Information" and then "School District Personnel and Fiscal Policies" or [https://www.violaschool.k12.ar.us/documents/state-required-information/2.-school-district-personnel-and-fiscal-policies-\(asba\)/179266](https://www.violaschool.k12.ar.us/documents/state-required-information/2.-school-district-personnel-and-fiscal-policies-(asba)/179266) .

Annual Legislative Joint Audit for Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2022

It was noted there needed to be a resolution approved for additional services paid to an employee, even though the board was aware of the expense. The District also needed to get new signature cards signed because of new members on the school board. There were issues noted with employees inadvertently receiving pay for sick days that, by policy, should have been carried over and overpaying an employee for Covid Hero Pay because of confusion over their number of years of service. The auditor determined that Educator Reform funding should have been transferred to the Teacher Salary fund and some expenses were not adequately documented by staff.

Annual Accreditation Status 2022-2023

The Viola School District is fully accredited with no violations. We offer all courses and programs required by the Arkansas Department of Education.

Facilities Master Plan

Purple projects have been completed.

Green projects are partially completed or planned for the near future.

Black projects are ideas for the future

Red projects were added/updated at the review of the Facilities Master Plan during the Annual Public Meeting.

- Upgrading ramp into Old Home Ec. Building with rails
- Adding railings around the gymnasium where the sidewalks have drop-offs
- Building an outdoor Tennis/Basketball/Volleyball court for the HS
- Resurface the new Tennis/Basketball/Volleyball courts
- Add to more sides to fence around the Tennis/Basketball/Volleyball courts
- Memorial for Stetson Drouin
- Adding ballistic film to entrances and other window in all buildings
- Upgrading HVAC in the entire gymnasium facility with new AC in the gymnasium itself
- Paving the elementary parking area
- Paving the bus parking lot
- Repaving the older paved parking areas
- Adding a fence around the elementary playground
- Adding privacy fences around dumpsters
- Resealing or repaving existing parking areas
- Programmable Thermostats (Schoolwide)
- Automatic light switches in all hallways
- Installing additional bleachers in the existing high school gym
- Installing additional bleachers in the existing elementary gym
- Extending the parking area in front of high school
- Build ends for rock wall around new city sidewalk
- Concession stand upgrade, including fume hood
- Removing all asbestos on campus
- Replacing older windows in cafeteria
- Add a cover over the gas pump and entrances of bus shop and Agri building
- Replacing old lockers in the gymnasium
- Adding a street connecting the elementary parking with Highway 62/412
- Old church building?
- Suggestions?

The biggest barrier to making these improvements is our enrollment. Enrollment has come up some since beginning the year lower.

Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan (ACSIP)

ACSIP is a mandated school plan to address areas which the school does not meet, or is in danger of not meeting, annual goals required by federal legislation.

(<https://violaar.sites.thrillshare.com/documents/state-required-information/acsip---school-level-improvement-plans/179271>)

Technology Plan / Children's Internet Protection Act

Viola School has upgraded teacher devices to make the use of Chromebooks more meaningful. With the help of ESSER / CARES Act funding, we have reached the status of being a 1-to-1 school.

Viola School's policy of internet safety can be found on the district website by clicking on "State Required Information" then "Internet Safety" or <https://www.violalonghorns.org/page/internet-safety-and-electronic-device-policy>.

To protect our students from objectionable online content, the District uses internet filters provided through Arkansas's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and another housed on our campus, as well as a management software purchased for every Chromebook.

ESA (old NSLA Funds) – State Categorical Funding

2023-24 Allotment = \$300,204

This categorical funding from the Arkansas' Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is being used to provide:

- four paraprofessional aides
- one fulltime dyslexia interventionist / 504 coordinator
- one reading specialist
- one resource officer through the Fulton County Sheriff's Department
- fund transfers to PD (Professional Development) and ALE (Alternative Learning Environment) if needed

Federal Programs

Title I, Part A - School-wide

2023-24 Allotment = \$198,561

Title II-A Allotment = \$26,383 (This funding is being transferred to Title I, Part A)

A portion of this funding is being used to provide:

- three classroom reduction teachers
- a parent center coordinator
- supplies for the parent center
- professional development opportunities for staff
- online educational services
- a parent notification call system / website / phone app
- funds for children in need
- technology equipment
- educational supplies (including elementary school supplies which used to be purchased by parents)

Title IV Allotment = \$15,991

- Concurrent Credit College Classes through Ozarka College
- Funds not used may be transferred to Title I

Title VI-B - Special Education

2022-23 Allotment = \$103,530

This funding is used to provide:

- speech services
- one Special Ed teacher
- Special Education and Speech supplies and professional development
- LEA Special Education Supervisor
- Some speech OT and PT services

Title V - REAP Funds

2022-23 Allotment = \$15,147

- Some speech OT and PT services

ESSER 2 Allotment

Original Funding Amount = \$688,404

Remaining funds were spent in September on the first of 3 payments for the new HVAC system for the gymnasium.

ARP ESSER Allotment

Original Funding Amount = \$1,547,158

Remaining funds as of November 9th = \$316,542

Remaining funds are being used to:

A portion of this funding is being used to:

- continue to pay for a second principal to better address learning loss from the pandemic
- Recruitment and Retention Bonuses (August)
- Remaining payments for adding AC / upgrading the HVAC for the entire gymnasium
- Salary for extra bus route (final year)
- Adding AC to last 3 route buses

Perkins – part of Northcentral Perkins Consortium

A portion of this funding for the Viola School District will be used for:

- Viola's match for a Career Coach
- professional development opportunities for vocational staff above mandatory requirements.
- iCEV Software curriculum for vocational classes

Programs for Homeless and Migrant Students

Homeless and migrant students automatically qualify for free breakfasts and lunches and are provided school related supplies when needed.

Equitable Service for Parents of Homeschool Children

Families who homeschool their children can ask questions about potential Special Education Services, and be provided guidance on how to develop a Service Plan for any eligible Student.

Family and Community Engagement Plan

As part of our district's effort to involve families, we held an Elementary Open-House & High School New Student Orientation in August, and will hold Parent-Teacher Conferences twice. Our P-T Conferences have been scheduled to coincide with Progress Reports this year. In addition, the elementary school holds several family engagement activities, including the fall festival, the grandparent/parent breakfast, the upcoming elementary Christmas Musical/Play, and other events and activities throughout the school year. The high school normally has an EAST Night Out event for parents, as well as a College Financial Aid night for students and parents to fill out federal and state financial aid applications. Teachers are available during scheduled prep times each day for conferences with parents, if necessary.

The District has a full-time parent center with a vast array of resources and services available for parents, teachers and the community. The center coordinates peer tutoring, parent volunteering, school newsletters and scrapbooks, as well as the publication of the yearbook and CD/DVDs of most school activities. Our district and community has benefited from **7,212 hours of volunteering in 2022-2023 (worth nearly \$80,000).**

WE NEED PARENTAL SUPPORT! If you have time and are willing to volunteer, please call Grace Qualls (458-4013) in the parent center or one of the principals.

Wellness Plan

Viola School works hard to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students to learn in. There are different areas that the Local School Wellness Committee works to improve each year. This is a work in progress and many of these things take time to accomplish.

Below are a few areas that the Local Wellness Committee has been working on, to make improvements in the current year and coming years:

- Health Education- Working to add an asthma curriculum for grades 2 through 4 in elementary and an anti-tobacco/anti-vaping education class in grades 5 and 6. Providing health education to K-12 for better understanding of a healthy lifestyle and physical activity.
- Nutrition Services- The lunchroom is working to collaborate more with parents and staff on menus and offering elementary and highschool 2 choices on their breakfast and lunches. Also a new Life 360 snack program has been added to Kindergarten through 6th grade with healthy snack choices.
- Health Promotion for Staff- An ongoing wellness program is offered to any staff member at Viola School through the school nurse. Learning about healthy eating and how to live a healthier lifestyle focusing on preventative health. We also hope to post health info to the Viola School website, to encourage parents, children and the community to live a healthier lifestyle.
- Family and Community Involvement- Working to involve students and families more in different areas of school health. Working on adding a healthy newsletter every quarter as well as parent and student involvement in lunches and meals.
- Working on providing CPR classes to high school students in the Family Consumer Science class and bleeding control training in Health class.

The District's wellness policy and school health index are updated annually and posted on the school's website. Debbie Kinder, Viola's School RN, is the chairperson of the Wellness committee for 2023-24. She can be reached at 458-4014 with any question about the District's wellness plan.

Gifted and Talented Education (Rachel Stone)

Viola School District's Gifted and Talented Program is a needs-based program serving "...children and youth ...of high potential or ability whose learning characteristics and educational needs require qualitatively differentiated educational experiences and/or services," as guided by Arkansas law (Act 917).

- Students in Kindergarten-3rd grades participate in 30-minute weekly whole-group enrichment lessons. Rachel Stone, the GT Coordinator/Facilitator, does an enrichment lesson once per month, and provides three additional enrichment lessons each month. Enrichment lessons are guided by the district's GT scope and sequence and the state GT Frameworks, and focus on critical and creative thinking skills, communication skills, affective development, exploring a wide variety of literature, developing writing skills, and extending classroom learning from core content areas.
- 4th-6th grade identified GT students participate in a pull-out/resource program taught by Ms. Stone for 150 minutes each week.
- The 7th and 8th grade students receive differentiated instruction in core classes. GT students in 9th-12th grades receive differentiated instruction in core classes and concurrent credit courses. They meet with the GT coordinator once each month and may participate in a variety of clubs and other enrichment activities.

GT students, parents of identified 4th-12th GT students, staff members, administrators, school board and community members are invited to participate in our GT Advisory Committee meeting in May to discuss the GT program, ask questions, and make suggestions. The GT Coordinator/Facilitator, Rachel Stone, welcomes your questions and ideas at any time regarding any aspect of the GT program. One way in which you may be a part of any program changes is through serving on the Advisory Committee. You may volunteer to join the committee by contacting her through the high school office or by email

at rachel.stone@violalonghorns.org. You can also find out more information about our GT program by visiting our school page

Vocational Education Programs

- **Business (Kevin Thrasher)**

Business classes teach keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, PowerPoint presentations, accounting, banking, budgeting, resumes, job applications and interviews, business presentations and communication skills, computer programming and more. One class, Survey of Business, is intentionally designed in an online format so students are better prepared for any online class they may experience in future educational endeavors. In addition, students taking Survey of Business have the opportunity to earn a nationally recognized certification in the various Microsoft Office Applications, which they can then use to obtain employment in careers that require the use of these skills. Since the pandemic, all of Viola's Business Classes are being taught using a hybrid format, meaning that all assignments and classroom materials are made available online through Google Classroom. This is being done to assure that if there is a need to shut down in-person attendance, Viola's Business classes will be able to continue without interruption. In October, we attended the fall FBLA Conference since the pandemic. Our FBLA students will continue to compete in district and state FBLA competitions that include computing, business topics, presentations, and speaking competitions. The organization has participated in past community service projects for March of Dimes, Arkansas Children's Hospital, Angel Tree Christmas program, and food drives, as well as nursing home and senior center visits. Starting last year, we began participating in Operation Christmas Child, which sends needed hygiene items, school supplies, and gifts to needy children overseas.

- **Agriculture (Corby May)**

Agriculture classes teach welding, metals, mechanics, basic building concepts, animal sciences, farm management, leadership skills, work ethic, and more. Students have the opportunity to meet with representatives from schools such as Arkansas Iron and Pipe (Salem, AR welding school), Arkansas Tech University and Ozarka technical programs about their plans after graduation. Students can also attend and compete in the County Fairs, leadership competitions, FFA judging teams, and trap shooting competitions. FFA members regularly attend several events including the National FFA Convention, State FFA Convention, Greenhand/Discovery Camps, and community service activities. Students have built swing sets, chicken tractors, deer blinds, shooting benches, salt feeders, and more. Some classes are working on boats, trailers, small gas engines, and go-karts. Students are learning how to raise animals such as chickens, goats, pigs and sheep. Younger kids learn about the importance of FFA and agriculture, as well as explore career options like electricity, welding, carpentry, plumbing, and farming.

- **Family and Consumer Sciences (Kandie Walker)**

Family and Consumer Science classes prepare students for family life, work life, and careers. Nutrition, parenting, child development, leadership and communication, consumer and family resources, and housing and interior design are just a few of the many subjects that help empower individual students, along with their family members, for their future life activities. To promote personal growth and leadership, students participate in community projects such as Backpack Program and various other community projects. Students compete in the district, state and nationwide STAR Event contests.

- **ASUMH Secondary Center**

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to get a head start on specific careers by earning college credit at Arkansas State University's Secondary Center in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Interested students can choose from the following programs: Automotive, Criminal Justice, Health Professions (CNA and EMR/EMT), Machining, Mechatronics (Applied Engineering), Welding, and Marine Manufacturing. This opportunity to earn a Certificate of Proficiency is offered completely free. The cost of the programs are covered by

the State of Arkansas, and the Viola School District provides daily transportation to and from the Technical Center.

- E.A.S.T. – Environmental and Spatial Technology (Sandra Cooper)

In EAST students are responsible for selecting community service projects and creating their own lessons and plans to achieve their goals. There are no lectures or tests, instead students are guided by a facilitator to achieve the goals they set for themselves. The EAST model follows the idea of Education Accelerated through Service and Technology. To aid students in this endeavor EAST provides the latest industry-level software and hardware and provides training for these to the students at no cost. Students have access to GPS/GIS Mapping tools, architectural and CAD design software, 3D animation suites, 3D printers, digital Video and Still Cameras and much more. This radically different approach to learning yields tremendous results and the culmination of their work for the year is the National EAST conference in March. Current and past projects include collaborating with other EAST programs throughout the state; providing multimedia support to the various organizations around the school and community; working with seniors citizens to answer their tech questions, moving the garden to school grounds, with the plan to supplement both the cafeteria and back-pack programs; a peer tutoring service at the High School; and working with the drones and GPS to map the Viola Cemetery. Students are currently working with community members to address issues like sidewalks and mental health awareness. Community members wishing to partner with EAST and/or with project ideas should contact the office to set up meetings.