

Nashville Primary School  
Report to the Public  
September 18, 2023

Enrollment

Kindergarten	129
First Grade	157
Second Grade	162
<u>Third Grade</u>	<u>131</u>
Total	579

Faculty and Staff

NPS has 48 highly qualified, talented, certified educators along with an additional 17 equally gifted classified employees. We welcome the following additions to our NPS Family:

Tesla Gills - First Grade  
Jewell Worthington - First Grade  
Katilynn Hanney - Second Grade  
Laken Hockaday - Second Grade  
Tandie Ray - Learning Loss Coach  
Shanika Lofton - Special Education Paraprofessional  
Erica Tollet - Paraprofessional

Master Schedule

With the ever increasing demand for ESL, dyslexia, special education, and learning loss interventions, we saw the need to take a step back and ensure that our master schedule was working for all of our students. Too often students were being pulled from core content instruction, which has proven to be counterproductive to closing academic gaps. We saw this flaw in our master schedule, gathered a leadership team, listened to teacher input, and got to work. We now have a schedule that prioritizes significant amounts of time for math and language arts that are free from pull-out interventions. Interventionists are now providing support in the classroom more often, and we have built in separate times for needed pull-out interventions. We believe this is pointing Nashville Primary in the right direction to see a vast improvement in growth for our students.

## Inclusion

Inclusion for our special education students was something we were very cognizant of when retooling our schedule. While the state mandates schools work on implementing inclusion, we don't see this as an obligatory measure but one that will help our special education students tremendously. We are grateful to Mrs. Ladonna Curtis for providing the support throughout this process as well as Willing Ways for their tremendous feedback and insight as we traverse these new waters. We are equally thankful for our special education teachers Ms. Beth Perrin and Mrs. Laura Curtis, along with our new paraprofessional Mrs. Shanika Lofton for the hard work they have, and continue to do, to get this right. We know this is a mindset shift, and that there will be kinks along the way, but we are excited to see the benefits in our students.

## Discipline

It is important to us that when disciplinary issues arrive, that we have appropriate consequences in place, we document well, and we are as fair as possible. This year we have taken steps to improve in all of those areas, starting with Nashville Primary School Code of Conduct. This outlines specific consequences that go with specific behaviors to ensure that Mrs. Topor and I stay consistent case-by-case. We have also begun using Incidents+, a program that clearly documents office referrals, allows teachers to easily report, and for Mrs. Topor and I to quickly communicate disciplinary actions back to appropriate staff. Finally, due to the lack of options for consequences, we have added a lunch detention and a half and full day In-School Suspension. This has been a tremendous help in keeping us from taking recess, which we aren't supposed to do, and moving too quickly to Out of School Suspension which we want to avoid when possible.

## Other Information

Nashville Primary is blessed to have an extremely supportive Parent-Teacher Organization. Their work for our staff and students is very much appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for all that this district has done to increase safety at Nashville Primary. The addition of armed staff as well as additional safety training for our staff has added a new level of safety that we all appreciate. We thank the work and dedication of our School Resource Officers, Hector Cortez and Danielle Terwilliger. Their presence at NPS not only makes us all safer but provides valuable opportunities to build positive relationships with police officers.

Finally, I believe that Nashville Primary is one of the best schools in the state of Arkansas. Mrs. Topor and I are very proud to work for such dedicated, hardworking, and passionate staff. We have had a very successful first month and are eager to see all our students achieve by the end of the year. As always, thank you to Mr. Graham and the Nashville School Board for their continued support.