

ANNUAL SCHOOL EVALUATION

Abingdon Elementary 2008-2009

For the 2008-09 school year, Abingdon Elementary had two objectives toward which they worked. The first was to increase the student achievement in mathematics by improving basic math skills and assuring that the school would meet AYP. The Spring 2008 mathematics scores were: Third Grade – 93%, Fourth Grade – 78%, and Fifth Grade – 80%. The second objective was to improve AES public relations.

Abingdon Elementary improved Math scores on the SOL tests in the economically disadvantaged subgroup by 14 points from 68% to 82%. By doing so they met AYP requirements which they had failed to meet in the previous year. The goal of improving public relations was also met as is evidenced by the numerous activities carried out and the various ways that parents were contacted by staff. Through open house attendance, advisory committees, and family night events it is apparent that improving community involvement with the school has been beneficial.

For 2009-10 the objective for AES is to increase student achievement in Language Arts/Reading. Among the strategies will be a continued emphasis on tutoring and cross grade collaboration. A second goal will focus on improving student activities encouraging a 100% participation rate for students in a least one activity. The third goal is to improve teacher quality and teaching techniques by having book discussion groups and videos of prepared lessons.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Abingdon Elementary 2008-2009

- Abingdon Elementary is fully accredited by the State of Virginia and by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- The preliminary scores for the 2008-2009 school year indicated that Abingdon Elementary will be “Fully Accredited” by the Virginia Department of Education.
- Abingdon Elementary met AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) requirements from the federal NCLB Act in **all subjects**.
- Student achievement(s) continued to be a priority, with data from assessments being used to guide instructional decisions.
- All students participated in physical education or outside play. Students in grades K-5 had 40+ minute activity periods for physical education, art, music, guidance, and library each week. Pre-K students had 25 minute activity periods. Other fine arts activities were offered to students as part of the daily curriculum or after school.
- Core teachers had a 40+ minute planning/collaboration period each day.
- Abingdon Elementary referred 44 students for Child Study. Thirty-seven (37) students were referred for learning concerns and seven (7) students for speech. Seven (7) were found eligible for speech services.
- Every gifted student at Abingdon Elementary had a Gifted Education Plan.
- A 20 computer wireless lab was available for teachers to check out.
- Second Step character education program was offered in grades Pre-K through 2nd grade.
- For those needing remediation, such plans were developed.
- CPS to be used with Smart Boards was available for teachers to use.
- Retired teachers were utilized for tutoring.
- An extra \$10,000 was provide to the school for AYP goals.
- After school tutoring was offered to all 3-5 grade students.
- Kindergarten Intervention was available for students needing it.
- Reading Recovery and a Reading Specialist were available for students.
- Instructional computer programs were used.
- An Instructional Technology Resource Teacher was on staff two days a week.
- Family Preservation Counselors were used for students with special needs.
- Renaissance Enterprise was purchased to increase the number tests available for thousands of AR books.

DATA ASSESSMENT

Abingdon Elementary
2008-2009

- Training and practice in using data for instructional decisions was provided at the August faculty meeting and throughout the school year as more data became available.
- A comprehensive list of At-Risk Students was provided for all faculty members.
- All faculty members adopted an At-Risk Student to offer support throughout the school year and offer encouragement during testing.
- Data assessment at the August faculty meeting resulted in the definition of goals for the 2008-2009 school year. The goals were defined in the area of math instruction.
- Grade level groups met weekly to compile and review student data. Sample data used for instructional planning included:
 - STAR reading test results
 - STAR math test results
 - Accelerated Reader
 - Benchmark test results
 - Harcourt Math Center
 - PALS scores
 - SOL data
 - Teacher-made assessments
 - Reading Recovery/Reading Specialist tests
 - CPS/Smart Board data
 - Curriculum-based county series weekly tests (Harcourt reading and math)
 - Physical fitness test scores for 4th and 5th grades
- In-school tutoring was provided to students demonstrating low or failing scores.
- SOL Released Items Tests were administered in each subject and grade levels 3-5 to provide information on specific curricular areas of need.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Abingdon Elementary 2008-2009

- A long range facility plan was on file in the AES office.
- The safety committee completed a review and update of the school crisis plan and training was provided to the faculty.
- The school safety committee conducted a safety audit in accordance with state and county policies.
- Construction was completed on our new wing. It includes six classrooms, a library, a computer lab, and restrooms.
- A new car rider system was developed in the back parking lot for after school dismissal.
- Each classroom (excluding Pre-K) received one new computer.
- SOL computers were moved to the new computer lab to create two traditional computer labs at AES.
- Three Smart Boards were purchased.
- The Discovery Walking Trail's first phase was completed.
- New outdoor classroom was constructed on the Discovery Trail.
- New walkie-talkies were purchased for each teacher.
- Each classroom was re-numbered to make considerations for the additional rooms.
- Outside doors and building trim were repainted.
- Front entrance was re-surfaced with AES painted in the concrete.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

Abingdon Elementary
2008-2009

- Parents and school community members were contacted using:
 - Monday Message folder
 - Classroom newsletters
 - PTA newsletters
 - School marquee
 - Computerized report cards
 - Family Nights
 - PTA meetings
 - PTA programs
 - AES website
 - Uniting the Division website
 - Parent Advisory Committee meetings
 - Assignment notebooks/agenda
 - Parent-teacher conferences
 - Parent-teacher notes
 - Parent-teacher phone calls and e-mails
 - Home visits
 - E-Mail
 - County-wide school calendar/handbook

- Non-school community involvement was encouraged through:
 - PTA programs
 - Girl and Boy Scout meetings
 - Washington County Parks and Recreation programs
 - American Education Week celebration
 - Read Aloud to a Child Week
 - National Volunteer Week
 - Use of facilities for community sporting/service events
 - Trunk or Treat
 - McTeachers' Night at McDonald's
 - Good News Club
 - Veterans' Day guest speakers
 - William King Arts Center programs
 - 4-H club
 - Learning Landscapes (Deni Peterson)
 - People, Inc. student council project
 - 2nd grade walking tour with community speakers and tour guides

- 4th grade attendance at community Revolutionary War reenactment
- The following are examples that increase school communication and public relations:
 - Parent Advisory Committee
 - Open house for new addition
 - Fire Department visits
 - School web page contained information about upcoming events and programs
 - Honor Roll sent to local newspaper
 - AES 4th grade students participated in Farm Day at the 4-H Center
 - Santa letters from 3rd graders published in the Washington Co. News
 - Parents' Night for the Book Fair at the library
 - Submissions to the Washington Co. Schools website
 - Two Family Night events for Title I students and their families

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Abingdon Elementary 2008-2009

- The school crisis plan was reviewed and updated by the school safety committee. Training was provided to faculty. Copies of the updated plan were distributed to all members of faculty and staff.
- Safety drills were held throughout the school year to prepare students and faculty for emergency situations.
- The custodial and maintenance staff provided adequate upkeep of the building, grounds, and campus to ensure a safe and secure atmosphere.
- Two accident reports were filed.
- Showcase windows and glasses are non-shattering safety glass.
- A safety audit was conducted by the school safety committee and is on file in the school office. Additional emergency management members participated in the audit. (Virginia State Policy, SWAT, SRO, and school personnel)
- Additional crisis kits with 2-way radios were made and distributed to various teachers for emergency situations.
- All law and safety enforcement officers are invited to have breakfast or lunch at the school free of charge.
- Visitors to the school are required to sign in and wear a badge
- Outside doors remain locked.
- Teachers and faculty are required to wear a badge.
- All teachers have been issued a two-way radio for safety and communication purposes.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Abingdon Elementary
2008-2009

- Students at Abingdon Elementary have a variety of activities in which they may participate, and which contribute to the development of the whole child.
 - Student Council
 - Morning News program
 - Van Gogh Art program (Native American theme)
 - Good News Club
 - Food Drive
 - St. Jude Math-a-Thon
 - Red Ribbon Week
 - Jump Rope for Heart
 - School and County-wide Spelling Bee
 - Reading Olympics for 4th and 5th grades
 - 4-H Club
 - GATE program
 - National Education Week activities
 - 5th grade DARE Essay Contest
 - 5th grade participation in DARE
 - PTA Reflections contest
 - United Way Day of Caring
 - William King Arts Programs
 - 5th Grade Christmas Celebration program
 - Hearts for Patients program through the Ronald McDonald House
 - Christmas with Children (Children's Advocacy Center)
 - Donations collected for local animal shelter
 - Read Across America
 - History Bowl for 4th grade
 - Washington County Day at the Fair
 - Recorder concert at the opening ceremony for new addition
 - 5th grade Class Night
 - Mileage Club for 2nd-5th grades
 - PTA programs
 - Two Book Fairs
 - Two Family Nights
 - Virginia Diner Peanut Fundraiser
 - SOL Celebration for 3-5 students

- Character Education was developed in the following ways:

- Second Step program
- Agendas have Character Education program
- “Thought for the Day” on morning announcements

- Multicultural activities were conducted throughout the school year and included:
 - William King Arts Center program – Egyptian and Chinese Art
 - Observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Recognition of Black History Month

- Activities that stimulated school spirit and entertained students were:
 - Fitness program
 - Accelerated Reader achievement reward programs
 - Open house for new wing
 - Trunk or Treat
 - Community Helper Visits: fire, police, helicopter, meteorologist