

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

and

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROFILE

School Mission Statement:

“Preparing All the Students of Today for the World of Tomorrow”

The Banner County School District develops and publishes this annual report as a service to its patrons. This report demonstrates a summary of the school district in a particular year and reflects the directions in which the district is headed for the future. Each district has its own formula for measuring quality education and success. To accurately assess the quality of our school district, diverse information such as student enrollment, staff, curriculum, facilities, financial statistics, budgeting, student achievement, and strategic climate must all be considered and reported objectively.

Banner County School Board of Education

Barbara J. Cross
 Brad Cross
 Kevin Hostetler, President
 Jennifer Jackson, Treasurer
 Mark Knaub
 Glenn Muhr, Vice President

Accreditation and Accountability

Banner County School is fully accredited by AdvancED/North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Accreditation, and the Nebraska Department of Education. This is a higher level of accreditation than is required by the state and is based on meeting the AdvancED standards for quality schools, demonstrating exemplary educational programs. For more information about accreditation, patrons are encouraged to visit the AdvancED website at www.advanc-ed.org or to call the school at (308) 436-5262.

Banner County School District is currently meeting or exceeding all requirements for state and federal accountability. Additional information about state and federal accountability is available through the State of the Schools Report which can be accessed on the official website of the Nebraska Department of Education at www.education.ne.gov. Locally, the district publishes this annual report as an accountability and transparency procedure. This report allows community members access to school information, which citizens can then use as a basis for positive action within the community or school district.

District Administration

Lana Sides, Superintendent	8 years of service in district
Travis Miller, K-12 Principal	4 years of service in district

District Staff

Teachers:

Debra	Bolander	K-6 Special Education
Barb	Cooper	First Grade
Bob	Cooper	Math, Computers, Chemistry/Physics
Brittany	Cooper	English, Newspaper, Jr. High P.E., Head Girls Basketball
Carla	Covell	Fourth Grade, Asst. Girls Basketball
Giselle	de Koning	Third Grade, Head Speech, Asst. One Act
Shanna	Disney	Second Grade
Angie	Hilbert	Social Studies, Elem. PE, JH P.E., Head Volleyball
Sarah	Lease	Kindergarten, School Improvement Chair
Bill	Gifford	Vocational Agriculture, JH P.E., Asst. Football, Head Wrestling, FFA
Kari	Gifford	Library/Media, Business, Activities Director, Cross-Country, Track and Field
Jeff	Jackson	Sixth Grade
Karin	Jones	Fifth Grade
Mark	Keszler	Guidance Counselor, Careers, Study Skills
Debbie	Leffers	Science, One Act, Asst. Speech
Sandy	Lemmon	Spanish
Nancy	Olsen	Math, Webpage Design, Student Council
Robin	Parsons	Art, Yearbook
John	Seiler	Special Education Director, 7-12 Special Education
Jeri	Revelle	Family and Consumer Science, Keyboarding, Computers
Sara	Steer	JH Language Arts, Title I
Rod	Van Pelt	Social Studies
Sandy	Wounded Arrow	4-12 Instrumental, K-12 Vocal

Classified Personnel:

Linda	Barrett	Bus Driver
Ken	Boston	Network Administrator/Computer Technician
Rick	Caudillo	Dual Credit English Comp., (WNCC), Library Para-educator
Lois	Dillinger	Cook
Colby	Elliott	Asst. Football
John Robert	Faden	Asst. Boys Basketball
Stephanie	Farro	SPED Para-educator/Bus Driver
Sue	Harrison	SPED Para-educator
Kinsey	Knaub	Asst. Volleyball
Sharon	Lease	Bus Driver, Title 1 Para-educator
Sonja	Lind	Bookkeeper/Secretary
Shari	Monsees	Cook
Chris	Olsen	Bus Mechanic
Crissy	Olsen	SPED Para-educator
Martin	Olsen	Asst. Wrestling
Marie	Parker	Nurse, Bus Driver
Rick	Parker	Bus Driver
Dave	Soule	Maintenance Supervisor
Connie	Soule	Bus Driver
Kenny	Stauffer	Head Football
Sue	Talkington	Building Custodian, Bus Driver
Kathy	Van Pelt	School Secretary
Jim	Wyatt	Head Boys Basketball
Janice	Wynne	Lunchroom Manager

Student Demographics (2009-2010)

The following enrollment data are displayed on the State of the Schools Report assessed through the Nebraska Department of Education website:

Enrollment in Grades K-6	74
Enrollment in Grades 7-8	31
Enrollment in Grades 9-12	72
K-12 Total Enrollment	177

School District Instructional Staff (2010-2011)

There are currently 47 employees of the Banner County School District, including 2 administrators, 22 teachers, 5 paraprofessionals, a maintenance supervisor and grounds keeper, a school secretary, a school bookkeeper, a building custodian, 7 bus drivers, and 3 kitchen staff, in addition to other part time employees.

Number of Certified Instructional Personnel	22
Number of Certified Instructional Personnel with Master's Degrees	8
Number of Certified Staff with Bachelor's Degrees	22
Number of Nurses (R.N.)	1
Number of Classified Personnel	23
Student to Certified-Personnel Ratio	8.05 to 1

Contracted Student Services (2009-2010)

Special Services Contracted with ESU #13, Scottsbluff, Nebraska:

- Speech/Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Alternative Education and Transitional Education Programs

Distance Learning Courses contracted with other schools through an Inter-local Agreement:
Spanish I and II

Lunch Program

Banner County School provides a school lunch program in accordance with state and federal guidelines. Parents are able to check student lunch balances via the school website at www.bannercountyschool.org.

Student Transportation (2009-2010)

Regular Bus Routes	7
Approximate Length of Most Routes	40 miles/twice a day
Employees with Bus Driver Licenses	10 (plus 4 subs)
School Buses for Activity Trips	2
School Suburbans for Activity Trips	2

Curriculum, Instruction, and Course Offerings (2010-2011)

Teachers utilize a variety of research-based instructional strategies including an emphasis on direct instruction of vocabulary within all subject areas and grade levels. Students receive instruction in the core subjects and in specials/electives at all grade levels. All students receive instruction from highly qualified and dedicated educators with favorable students to teacher ratios in all classes. Academically, Banner County Public School provides a comprehensive curriculum in all areas, meeting or exceeding state requirements. The following courses, programs, and services are provided to the students in the Banner County School District:

2010-2011 Course/Subject Offerings			
* Designates Dual Credit Offering			
Mathematics	English	Social Studies	Science
Algebra I Algebra II Geometry Advanced Math Algebra A Algebra B Applied Math College Algebra* Calculus*	English I English II English III English Literature Applied Communication Yearbook/Photography NEVA English Comm. for 21 st Century Eng. Comp*	Social Studies 9 US History World History American Govt. Modern Problems Native Amer. Hist. NEVA History	Physical Science Biology Biology II Chemistry Nature Science Environmental Science NEVA Science
World Language	Business	Consumer Ed	Vocational Agriculture
Spanish I Spanish II Spanish III	Accounting I Accounting II Personal Finance Introduction to Business Business Math	FCS Food Science Parenting/Child Development	Crop/Soil/Animal Intro to Ag. Science Intro to Ag. Mechanics Wildlife Management
Art	Music	Health & P. E.	Computer Education
Art I, II, III, IV Computer Graphics	Band Chorus Music Theory	Health Physical Education Lifetime PE	Computer Applications Computer Language I Advanced Comp. App. Computer Language II Web Design
Other	7th Grade	8th Grade	Elementary
Careers NEVA (Nebraska Educational Virtual Academy (Consortium with other ESU#13 Schools)	Language Arts 7 Math 7 Social Studies 7 Science 7 Family Consumer Science Shop/Agriculture Band/Choir Art Physical Education Study Skills	Language Arts 8 Math 8 Social Studies 8 Science 8 FCS Shop/Agriculture Band/Choir Art Keyboarding Physical Education	Reading/Language Arts Writing Mathematics Science Social Studies Vocal Music Instrumental Music (4-6) Physical Education Technology Instruction Library Art

Banner County School is currently undergoing changes in the area of curriculum as the school is working on aligning curriculum to the new state math and science standards and digital documentation of curriculum. Alignment work will continue as state standards are updated in the other subject areas.

Extra-Curricular Activities Programs

Banner County School District maintains membership in the Minuteman Activities Conference. Banner County School offers interscholastic competition in football, volleyball, cross country (girls), play production, basketball, wrestling, speech, track and field, and opportunities in vocal and instrumental music and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

For the past five years Banner County School has earned the MAC Conference Sportsmanship trophy.

District Strategic Positioning

The district is positioned to be very competitive, as the district has a tradition of excellence in both academics and extra-curricular activities. Additionally, the location of the district as the sole educational entity in the county, yet within commuting distance of Scottsbluff/Gering and Kimball, helps keep the district in a position where it can continue to be very competitive, both academically and in maintaining enrollment. Academically, Banner County School consistently outperforms the state average on the ACT test, and Banner County School posted the highest ACT scores in the MAC Conference for 2009 graduates.

School District Valuation and Budget (2009-2010)

Total Assessed Valuation for 2010-2011	\$183,785,791
Total Assessed Valuation for 2009-2010	\$166,785,213
Total Assessed Valuation for 2008-2009	\$155,361,194
General Fund Levy for 2010-2011	0.952710
Special Building Fund Levy for 2010-2011	0.010000
General Fund Levy for 2009-2010	0.952710
Special Building Fund Levy for 2009-2010	0.010000
General Fund Levy for 2008-2009	0.952710
Total Budget for Disbursements & Transfers (2010-2011)	\$3,990,860
Total Budget for Disbursements & Transfers (2009-2010)	\$3,807,695
Total Budget for Disbursements & Transfers (2008-2009)	\$3,467,789

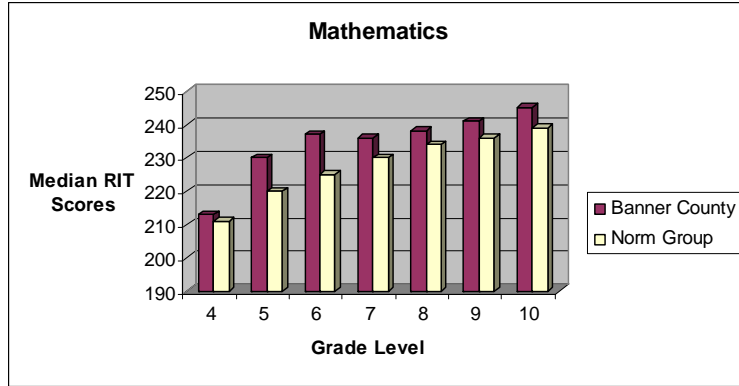
Banner County School District Land

County	Area in Square Miles	Percentage of Land in School District
Banner	715.3	89.2%
Morrill	84.3	10.5%
Scotts Bluff	2.7	0.3%

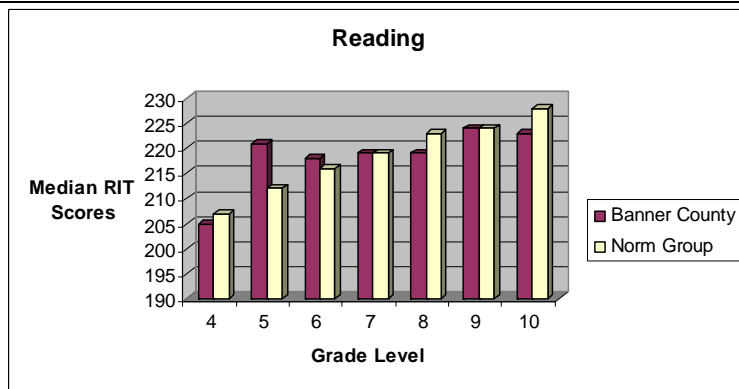
Totals **802.3** **100%**

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing (Spring 2010)

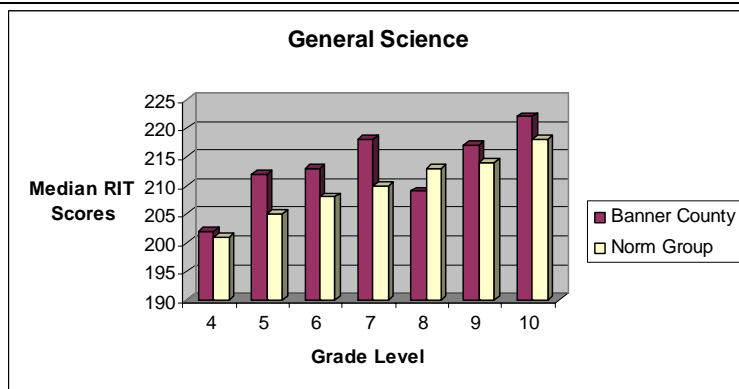
NWEA TESTING RESULTS SPRING 2010



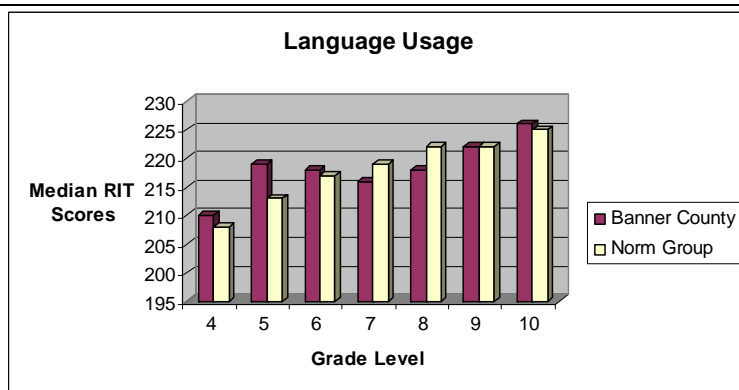
Grade	Banner County	Norm Group
4	213	211
5	230	220
6	237	225
7	236	230
8	238	234
9	241	236
10	245	239



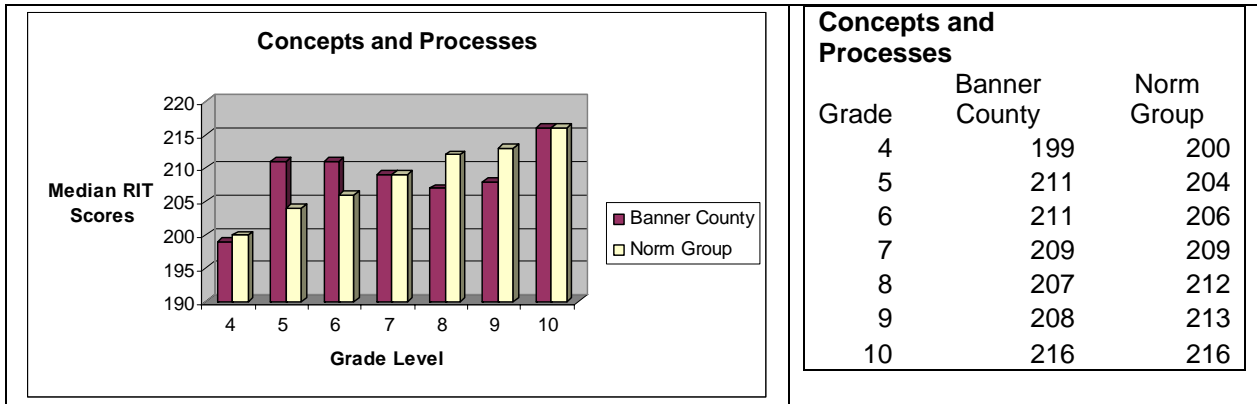
Grade	Banner County	Norm Group
4	205	207
5	221	212
6	218	216
7	219	219
8	219	223
9	224	224
10	223	228



Grade	Banner County	Norm Group
4	202	201
5	212	205
6	213	208
7	218	210
8	209	213
9	217	214
10	222	218

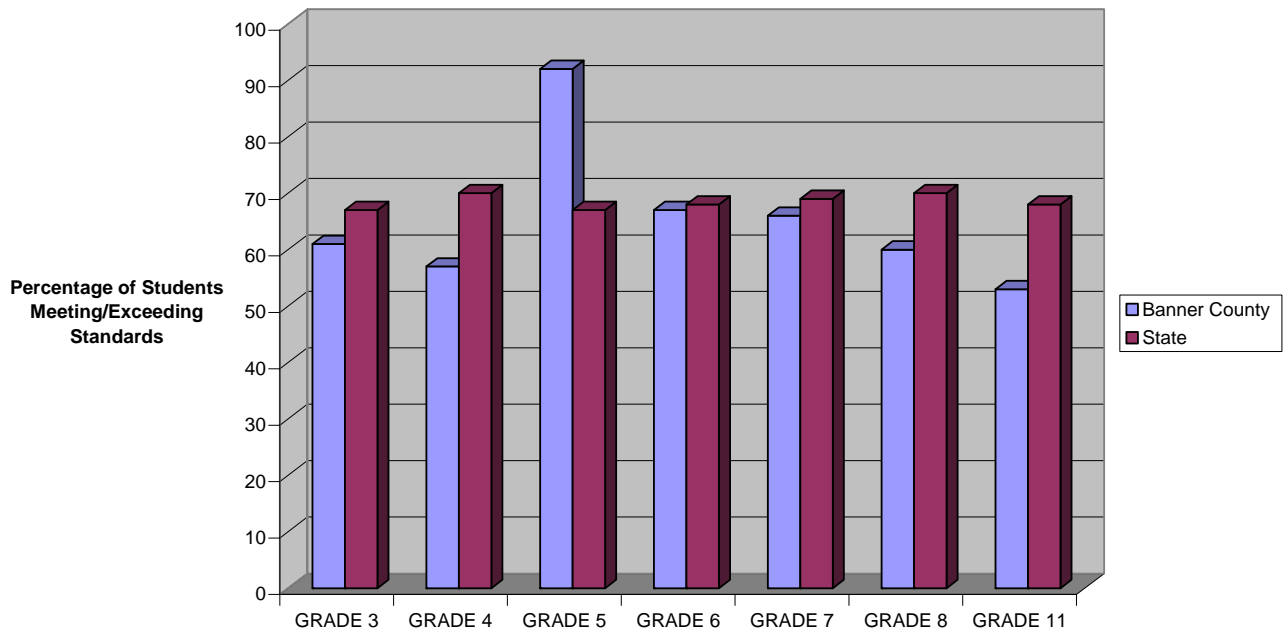


Grade	Banner County	Norm Group
4	210	208
5	219	213
6	218	217
7	216	219
8	218	222
9	222	222
10	226	225



Nebraska State Reading Assessment (NeSA-R)

NeSA-Reading Results for Banner County School 2010



AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING (ACT)

This report reflects the achievement of Banner County graduates on the ACT over time and is an indication of the extent to which they are prepared for college-level-work. The table below shows a multi-year trend of our high school's ACT-tested graduates. From this table we can determine: (1) changes in the number and percentages of participants, (2) score changes in subject areas and the ACT composite, and (3) how local graduates compare with state averages.

ACT RESULTS

Total Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite		
Grad Year	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State
2003	12	16,646	19.8	21.2	20.1	21.4	21.6	22.0	21.4	21.7	20.8	21.7
2004	11	16,523	20.0	21.2	21.5	21.5	20.5	22.0	20.3	21.6	20.8	21.7
2005	13	16,220	20.7	21.4	20.0	21.6	20.5	21.9	21.4	21.7	20.8	21.8
2006	14	15,892	17.7	21.5	18.8	21.6	19.7	22.2	19.9	21.8	19.1	21.9
2007	13	16,137	23.0	21.8	22.8	21.8	25.3	22.4	23.4	21.9	23.8	22.1
2008	13	16,573	21.9	21.8	23.2	21.8	22.5	22.5	21.9	21.9	22.5	22.1
2009	18	16,286	23.4	21.9	22.9	21.8	23.2	22.5	21.6	22.0	22.9	22.1
2010	8	16,172	19.5	21.8	21.1	21.6	20.4	22.4	21.6	22.0	20.8	22.1

Transition from Secondary School

The following data represents the percentages of seniors who plan to pursue a post secondary education (trade school, 2-year college, 4-year college, vocational training), military experience, or enter the work force after graduation.

Year Grad.	Post Secondary Education	Military	Work
2010	50%	7%	43%
2009	90%	0%	10%
2008	78%	5%	17%
2007	74%	5%	21%
2006	59%	29%	12%
2005	82%	12%	6%
2004	67%	20%	13%
2003	86%	0%	14%
2002	57%	0%	43%
2001	69%	0%	31%
2000	69%	8%	23%
1999	50%	11%	8%
1998	74%	0%	26%
1997	55%	10%	35%
1996	60%	10%	30%

Overall there is a positive community perception of the school and the school's ability to prepare graduates for success beyond high school.

The successes of former students are recognized on various displays throughout the school building, but there are currently few systems to recognize former students who have succeeded beyond high school.

Description of the School District, Community, and School Improvement

Banner County School is located in the unincorporated town of Harrisburg. Harrisburg is the only town in Banner County and is the county seat. Although the population of Harrisburg is sixty-seven, 852 people reside in Banner County. There is a fire department, courthouse, bank, post office, and a museum. The Flowerfield School sits on the museum grounds and many panhandle schools send 4th grade classes to the museum each fall for one day. While in the 4th

grade students learn Nebraska History and their experience at Flowerfield School helps them develop an understanding of school in the late 1800s and to experience what school was like in the past.

Banner County was formed on January 29, 1889, from land taken from Scotts Bluff, Kimball, and Cheyenne counties. At that time the population was approximately 8,000. The county covers 747 square miles. Banner County has the two highest mountain peaks in the state with Wildcat Peak at 5,038 feet and Hogback Mountain at 5,028 feet above sea level. The highest elevation recorded by the U.S. Geological survey is the Flowerfield swell, which is 5,240 feet above sea level. At the same time, the lowest point in the county is 3,940 feet. Using a rough criterion that every 100 feet rise in elevation extends the growing season one day, there is a difference of 13 days in the growing season between the high and low points.

Banner County is rich in agriculture, with farms and ranches totaling 478,080 acres. Of this land, about 169,415 acres are utilized for crop production, and approximately 219,805 acres are in grassland. The county, in the past, has been supported by dryland wheat production but now has many center-pivot systems irrigating corn, beans, sugar beets, wheat, and alfalfa. Wheat, millet, sunflowers, and corn are also dryland crops. Another major industry is feedlots for the raising of cattle or hogs. Market trends greatly affect the economic resources for this district. Banner County is primarily older established farming/ranching families. Only a few young families have moved into the county to take over the farming/ranching operations. Oil production has also been part of the county's history. The highest production number was 351 wells. Now there are 92 producing wells.

During the 1960's the U.S. government directed the location of many missile sites in the county, which currently houses Minuteman III Missiles. Banner County also supports numerous home-based businesses.

The county is definitely diverse in age with many considering the county as aging. It has a large impact on the school system. Like many rural schools in Nebraska and throughout the nation, Banner County School faces a declining population and the possibility of declining enrollment associated with the demographic shift. Additionally, Banner County School has continued to adjust practices based upon changing trends in option enrollment. Banner County School currently has two school buses go to Gering to pick up students who have optioned from other school districts. Option enrollment has brought many changes to the school demographic.

School reorganization has been with Banner County residents for many years. The process began on March 2, 1954, when the vote was 223 for and 220 against a bond issue to construct a new school. It was short of the 55% required by law, thus it was defeated; however, a petition with 200 signatures put the issue back on the ballot on May 28, 1954, and it was soundly defeated by a vote of 323 to 199. Then in November 1954, a school reorganization plan was submitted which proposed combining all county schools into one district. In April 1955, the voters passed the proposal 199 to 168; thus, Banner County became the first county in the state to organize itself into a one school district county. The present system was adopted in 1956 with the consolidation of the 26 districts in the county into one district and one K-12 building. It is believed to be the first countywide district in the state.

The school building was completed in 1957 at a cost of \$465,000.00. The 20-year bond issue was paid off in about eight years. The 42,000 sq. ft. building contained three wings, one for the elementary, one for the junior high, and one for the high school students, with a combination gymnasium/auditorium in the center and the cafeteria and high school library off of the commons

area and offices. It began with 17 teachers, a superintendent, and 12 bus routes to transport students to school in Harrisburg. An addition was added to the building in 1961-1962, at a cost of approximately \$78,000.00. The music room, multipurpose room, language arts room, Title I room, special education room, and outdoor concession stand and restrooms are located in the new addition. The school is the focal point of social activities and the gathering place for most activities in the county.

Banner County is a K-12 district and functions in a K-6 and 7-12 organizational pattern utilizing available staff. Banner County School staff are teaching in their endorsed areas, 100% at the elementary level and 82% of the high school classes. The average teacher tenure in this district is 10.5 years. Historically, the administration tenure was stable; prior to 1988 there were only three superintendents.

School surveys implemented during the 2008-2009 school year indicated a positive school climate. One issue that surfaced on the student surveys was a perception that bullying was occurring in the district. All staff members attended anti-bullying training in December 2009. A Student Needs Advocate Committee was formed at that time to plan student advocacy activities and events. The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. group of Omaha provided assemblies for students about anti-bullying and the public was invited to attend. A grant was also awarded to Banner County School through the Governor's Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant that provided resources for curriculum and assemblies.

Banner County School engages in a rigorous staff development process with several school calendar days dedicated to staff development. In addition to professional development provided during these days, the teaching staff attends the annual conference at ESU#13. Additionally, staff members are supported in attending professional trainings which are aligned to the school improvement goals and/or the individual professional growth needs of the school staff.

Maintaining school improvement is the responsibility of every employee in the district in partnership with community members and parents. Efforts are led by the School-Improvement Committee and the Chair, Sarah Lease. Other members of the School Improvement Committee include Karin Jones, Kari Gifford, Nancy Olsen, Robin Parsons, Jeri Revelle, Lana Sides, Sara Steer, Travis Miller, and Glenn Muhr.

Strategic Goals

The following have been identified as the school improvement goals:

- All students will work to improve their performance in the areas of reading and language arts across all curricular areas.
- All students will demonstrate positive character traits of respect and responsibility within the school community.

In addition to the goals above, the following goals have been adopted by the Banner County Board of Education:

- Provide safe, modern and well maintained facilities that reinforce and foster the District's commitment in providing excellent educational programs.
- Continue to promote Banner County School District and the benefits of its educational programs.
- Continue commitment to support the SIP, its committee(s) and improvement goals. Provide continuous staff development that supports Board's mission and goals.

Partnerships for Education

There are a limited number of programs outside of the school within the community. However, there is a strong after school program (Kids Klub) that provides an opportunity for youth to be involved in positive activities outside of school. Many students are also involved in 4-H Programs through Kimball-Banner County and Scottsbluff County 4-H. Additionally, the unique locality of Banner County offers students a choice of participation in programs offered in surrounding communities, such as programs offered by the YMCA in Scottsbluff and similar youth programs.

The school district has a variety of positive relationships with various organizations within the local and regional communities. Banner County School works very closely with the following educational organizations to provide a high quality and cost effective education to all students.

- **Panhandle Prevention Coalition** – Banner County School partners with the Panhandle Prevention Coalition to provide a safe and effective school environment through combined efforts to engage students in healthy behaviors.
- **Educational Service Unit #13** – Multiple services, including staff development, psychological services, speech therapy, and occupational therapy are provided to Banner County School through partnership with ESU#13.
- **VALTS** (Valley Alternative Learning and Transitioning School) – An Interlocal Agreement with 5 other schools provides individualized alternative learning opportunities for high school students.
- **NEVA** (Nebraska Educational Virtual Academy) – Online credit recovery and dual credit opportunities for high school students.
- **WNCC** – Dual Credit courses in College Algebra, Calculus, and English Composition
- **Western Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium** – Classes are provided to students over the regional distance learning network.
- **Crawford Public Schools** – Banner County School District and Minatare Public Schools share a portion of the Spanish Teacher’s salary from Crawford. This provides opportunity for students to receive Spanish language instruction.
- **County of Banner and Banner County Rural Fire Board** – Banner County School has agreements with the County and the Rural Fire Board to share a fueling station and cooperatively purchase fuels and propane.
- **Banner County Public School Foundation** – The Banner County Public School Foundation was formed in December 2004 for the purpose of receiving gifts and donations in order to support senior scholarships and various school programs.

These partnerships allow the Banner County School District to leverage its resources alongside other organizations to maximize learning opportunities for students.

Contact Information

Banner County School District
PO Box 5
Harrisburg, NE 69345
(308)436-5262
www.bannercountyschool.org

For more information about all Nebraska schools, visit the Nebraska Department of Education web site at www.education.ne.gov.