

On Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, a public meeting was held at the Harmony Grove School District Administration building. The purpose of this meeting was to inform parents and the community of the district's progress as well as goals for 2009-2010 school year.

In Arkansas, the Benchmark Exams are administered to students in Grades 3-8. These tests are based on the academic standards in the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. The End-of-Course Exams are taken at the completion of a course of study to determine whether a student demonstrates mastery of that subject. End-of-Course Exams are given in Algebra I, Geometry and in the 11th grade in Literacy. Exemplary scores were achieved in the following areas:

- 87% of our 3rd grade students scored proficient or advanced on the math portion of the benchmark exam, 6 percentage points above the state average.
- 76% of the 7th grade students scored proficient or advanced on the math portion of the benchmark exam, 8 percentage points above the state average.
- 80% of our Algebra I students scored proficient or advanced on the End of Course, 10 percentage points above state average.
- 72% of our Geometry students scored proficient or advance on the End of Course, 6 percentage points above state average.
- 49% of our Biology students scored proficient or advanced on the End of Course, 8 percentage points above state average.

Achievement increased for the combined population and sub populations for all schools. However, the progress of our students classified as economically disadvantaged was not great enough to make adequate yearly progress in literacy. This placed Westbrook Elementary in year one of school improvement and Harmony Grove Middle School in year three. Due to year three of school improvement after school tutoring will be provided for these students. Each school has created specific goals to assist our students in becoming proficient or advance, including a partnership with The Learning Institute (TLI). The Learning Institute creates Benchmark style assessments aligned with the Arkansas Frameworks. This program allows our faculty to provide targeted assistance to our students based on their identified weaknesses. Our goal is to assist all of our students in becoming proficient or advanced in the areas of literacy, math and science.

Westbrook Elementary is accredited; the Middle School and High School are accredited-cited.

Harmony Grove District shows growth in our student population. Our enrollment increased from 971 to 1051.

We continually work toward improving our district's technology and with our stimulus money we have purchased new computers, LCD projectors and smart boards for classrooms.

The new middle school building is under construction. These classrooms will be equipped with smart boards, LCD projectors, multiple computers and ELMOs.

Our district's workforce education program will again begin to build a house. This gives the students an opportunity to enhance their skills in actual work conditions. This is an excellent experience for students.

Our schools are partnering with Baptist Health Behavior Services, which provides the necessary support for our students to succeed.

Our district strives to provide an excellent education for all students; we feel an education not only includes academics, but also includes a variety of extra curricula activities. Harmony Grove School district received numerous awards for 2008-2009 school year.

The district completed a new football stadium and facilities for our students. The High School and Middle School have completed their inaugural seasons in football. This program was well received by the students and the community with an average attendance of 500 per game.

Marching Band completed their marching season with unanimous first division rated performance at the Regional V ASBOA Marching Contest. This finishes the band with another perfect season.

Spanish I and II Students attended the 2009 Regional Foreign Language Festival at North Little Rock High and the State Festival at UCA. Students competed in areas of extemporaneous speaking and reading, poetry, drama, culture, art, and a vocabulary bee. The team received distinguished honors at district and state level.

- Cross-country track member won 4th place in state
- Harmony Grove Senior Boys Basketball team won conference and competed in the state tournament for the 1st time in 30 years
- Future Business Leaders of America won awards at regional and state competition
- Art Students won numerous awards at Regional and County Art Exhibits.
- Baseball, softball, Golf, and tennis team won their district and qualified for state tournaments
- The graduating class of 2009 was awarded \$572,950 in scholarships.

Harmony Grove School District is striving to provide each student with a challenging curriculum that promotes life-long learning and to develop skills necessary to be responsible citizens in our ever-changing world. Harmony Grove School District is a great place for learning.