

# Chalkboard

By

Dr. Randy C. Barrett, Superintendent  
Gentry Public Schools

In the past two Chalkboards you have heard the each school principal summarize his or her respective oral Annual Report To The Public. In today's piece, you will find a summary of the district information that was provided to the public when the report was first given on September 13, 2004 at that month's regular school board meeting. A few of the items have been updated to current numbers.

Because a vision drives every organization, it is well to note what that vision is for the Gentry Public School District. "The mission of Gentry School District is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for all students in kindergarten through grade twelve that will emphasize literacy and mathematics to provide a foundation for lifelong learning."

Gentry Public School District is comprised of four schools- Primary, Intermediate, Middle, and High. All four schools are fully accredited by the both the North Grades K-2 attend the Primary, Grades 3-5 attend the Intermediate School, Grades 6-8 attend the Middle School, and the High School serves grades 9-12.

The enrollment of all students (updated here for October 1) is 1417. The counts by grade are K, 116; First, 118; Second, 117; Third, 103; Fourth, 103; Fifth, 89; Sixth, 107; Seventh, 120; Eighth, 119; Ninth, 141; Tenth, 105; Eleventh, 79; and Twelfth, 100. Student enrollment has grown at a steady pace in the last four years. In the 2001-02 school year the district had an enrollment of 1207 students. At last week's October 1 reporting period, the count was 1417 students. To serve these students the district employs 117 Certified staff members and 76 Classified staff.

The Gentry School District has a land area of approximately 85 square miles. A seven-member school board serves the district. Five are elected from zones; two are elected at-large.

The district operates 12 out-of-the-city limits, route buses and 2 "Town" routes. Counting both morning and afternoon transports, approximately 1353 students are transported daily with all trips adding up to over 700 miles traveled each day.

The district operates two school cafeterias staffed by 18 classified employees. Counting breakfast and lunch, approximately 1210 meals are served daily. Six hundred and eighty Gentry students qualify for either free

or reduced meals under the National School Lunch Act. That is almost half of the entire student body (48%).

The district's budget will total approximately \$10,000,000. Almost 80% of that amount is required for staff salaries and other salary obligations. Of the remainder, \$695,843 is required to meet the district's bonded indebtedness.

In the technology section of the report, it was noted that the district's computer to student ratio was 1 to 4. The campus ratios were reported as Elementary- 1:4.84, Middle- 1:3.63, and High- 1:2.47.

Finally, it was reported to the public that student performance on various state and national exams had continued to show progress from prior years. It was noted that very significant progress had been made especially at the sixth grade level.