

Chalkboard

By

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For the past few years, we have been striving to improve our course offerings without decreasing the rigor of our curriculum.

The first phase of this plan started a couple of years ago when we doubled blocked our Algebra classes. We had to ensure that all Algebra students were given the ability to master the basic Algebra fundamentals before moving into the higher-level math courses. As you have seen by the EOC Algebra and EOC Geometry scores, this has been very effective.

The second phase was taken when we screened all of the 11th grade students last fall to determine their reading levels. With this information, we were able to create and implement the English Lab class that allows students to increase their reading rate, fluency and level of comprehension giving them the ability to be successful on the 11th Grade Literacy Exam.

The third phase came together when we opened the Distance Learning Center (Lab) in the new classroom additions last spring. Classes offered in the DLL are compressed video and are transmitted from different areas of the state, like: NWACC and Maumelle. We can also connect with other schools from around the state as well. Students are able to enroll in both high school and college classes and can receive college credits while still attending Gentry High School.

Phase four comes into play this year with the introduction of the JEDI program throughout the entire High School. This program is web-based and can be used alone as a teaching strategy, combined with regular class instruction as a tutorial or as a remediation tool. JEDI works on a mastery system where a student has to score 80% on an area before the program will allow them to move on.

Phase five is the increasing of our Vocational Department curriculum. First we have included the JAG program for students in the workforce, which allows them the ability to improve their job skills that will help them throughout their working lives. Secondly, we have increased our AG program to include: Introduction to Horticulture, Equine Science and the National Archery in Schools Program. These new programs are allowing us to extend our Program of Study Completers.