

A Letter from the Wewoka School Superintendent

Wewoka Public School District is working diligently to prepare students for post secondary and career opportunities by implementing technology, a variety of STEM programs, and career development. We believe these programs will provide our students with the skills and knowledge base needed to be successful in attaining high paying employment in our community.

Students need basic computer skills to apply for most jobs, enroll and navigate college, or to pay bills. We are making sure our graduates are prepared to achieve whatever goal they set for themselves. Wewoka is a technology rich district with one to one computer access. We have enough laptops for every student and interactive televisions for every classroom. We have STEM labs at the elementary and middle school that provide computer coding instruction daily for students in grades 3rd-8th. Robotics is offered at the middle and high school to provide additional coding opportunities, and this year we are adding a comprehensive computer course at the high school through a UTeach grant that we received. The robotics program at the high school is through Gordon Cooper Career Technical School, and even though our students study in our classrooms they receive advanced certifications. Wewoka students also have the opportunity to work with drones and sea perch (underwater drones) to learn operations and coding for educational experiences and we are looking for additional technology to expand the opportunities we have for our students.

This year we implemented an internship program where students can receive high school credit while working at local businesses. We are expanding the program by adding The Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) which will be implemented during the 2020-2021 school year. Wewoka was selected to be one of five Oklahoma School Districts to work with Oklahoma Educational Quality (OEQ) to implement JAG. JAG is an evidenced based youth development program dedicated to helping at-risk students graduate from high school and make the transition to postsecondary education or employment. The mission is to provide work-based learning experiences and services to support young people in school through graduation.

In participating JAG schools, a full time career specialist will work closely with administrators and teachers to ensure that program activities and goals are integrated into each student's educational planning. The career specialist will work with students in Wewoka High School, local businesses, and community organizations to develop classroom instruction, extracurricular activities, and work-based learning opportunities.

Wewoka Public School District has made great strides in providing students the learning opportunities that are needed to prepare graduates for immediate employment or advanced educational degrees. However, we are not satisfied yet and are continuing to search out unique programs so that our students become the type of independent thinkers and employees that local businesses want to hire.

Shellie Gammill, PhD

Superintendent

Wewoka Public School District