

Newcastle Implementing Strategic Planning Initiative

By Jayson Knight
Staff Writer

Newcastle Schools have experienced a seven percent growth in the last year, which equates to about 100 students, with 2,341 students enrolled last week.

“We monitor our attendance week by week now,” Superintendent Melonie Hau said January 16. “We fluctuate up and down. Some weeks, we’re a little less than 100, but we’re averaging about 100 from last year.”

To adjust to the growth in the district, Newcastle Schools has built up its staff, and its administration is currently excited about its plans for the future of Newcastle education.

“We’ve added additional staff, and we are monitoring our instructional materials to make sure we have everything that we need for our students,” Hau said. “One of the biggest things that we’re doing, and what we’re really excited about the most, is our strategic planning effort. We’re partnering with B. K. 20 center from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State School Boards Association to work through a strategic planning process. One of the things that they’re asking us to do is to look at our enrollment data and our student achievement data to determine what facilities we’re going to need in the future, what instructional materials or

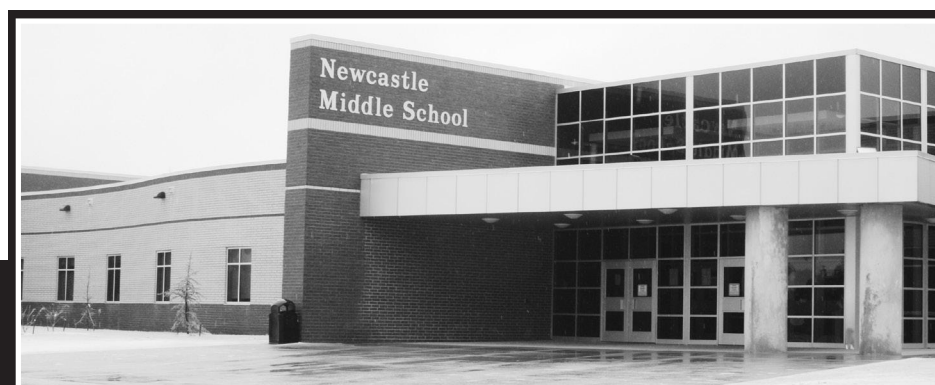
programs we’ll need for students, and that will help give us focus as we grow because we’re going to be growing steady, we anticipate, over the next few years.”

Go online to newcastle.k12.ok.us and click under the options underneath

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Hau encouraged those interested to visit the website, saying, “I just published on our website some information about the strategic planning process and the big goal areas that we have right now.”



Blanchard adjusting to 500-student boom in the last 13 years

By Jayson Knight
Staff Writer

Blanchard’s growth has been well managed despite sizeable increases, especially last year. For 2020, Blanchard Public Schools is currently finishing up their projects they began work on last year.

Blanchard Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Beckham said bond-funded construction projects approved in 2019 will be a priority for the district.

“Blanchard Public Schools has experienced phenomenal growth

over the last several years,” the superintendent said. “We have increased our student numbers from approximately 1,500 in 2007 to well over 2,000 today. As a result of this growth, our community passed a bond issue in 2008 which built a new high school, and another in 2019 for a new football stadium, Jody Miller Performing Arts Center, safe rooms, and additional classroom space. The 2019 bond projects are scheduled to be completed within the next two years.”

At blanchard.k12.ok.us, parents and other supporters can find links to information like the Indian Education

Program, and websites for supporting non-profits such as the Blanchard Education Foundation.

The Blanchard Education Foundation is a broadly-based, non-profit community organization whose purposes are to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations exclusively for the educational benefit of the students in the Blanchard, Oklahoma Public Schools.

The Blanchard Indian Education Program serves students in grades Pre-K through 12. The Indian Education Parent Committee participates in the



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planning and evaluation of the Indian Education Programs. All parents of elementary and secondary students are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Kari Lollis, Indian Education Director, at 485-3392 or klollis@blanchard.k12.ok.us.