

**Blanton Elementary School  
Denton Independent School District  
Linda Bozeman, Principal  
Community and Student Engagement Survey  
2016-2017**

At Blanton Elementary School, our motto is 'Where a Knight's Quest for Knowledge Begins'..., because we know that our fundamental purpose is to ensure that all children learn at a high level. It is a collaborative journey in which teachers, staff, parents and volunteers serve together so we can assist our students as they take ownership of their learning and progress.

We have many programs available to our children at Blanton. Students are presented with multiple opportunities to participate in the fine arts through Squire Choir, Honor Choir, Orchestra, and ocarina performances. In addition, multiple after-school activities are offered to students K-5, such as Running Club, Art Club, Green Team, Media Club, and STEM. We also support student learning through programs such as EXPO, Dyslexia, Reading Recovery, Speech/Language Therapy and Literacy Groups. Our Response to Intervention Team collaborates on a weekly basis to help ensure individual needs are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

The staff at Blanton believe in collective efficacy as we share a perception that the efforts of the faculty as a whole will have positive effects on students. Through the collaborative efforts of our Campus Leadership Team, the staff has agreed upon the following mission, vision and commitments that we believe will assist us as we strive to maximize the potential of all our children.

**OUR MISSION:**

We will work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students, while inspiring and empowering them to become safe, respectful, and caring learners.

**OUR VISION:**

We believe that our capacity to function as a Professional Learning Community is the foundation for achieving the mission of Blanton Elementary. We envision a school in which staff:

- Collaborate to achieve a common purpose and clear goals
- Seek and implement research-based practices for improving student achievement

- Monitor each student's progress on a continuous basis
- Demonstrate a personal commitment to provide a nurturing learning environment and a willingness to do whatever it takes to promote student success.

**OUR COMMITMENT:**

- We will develop relationships with students as the foundation for learning
- We will use data analysis to target specific areas of need
- We will utilize the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) along with Denton ISD Scope and Sequence to align instruction
- We will engage in research-based staff development opportunities
- We will ensure continuous student improvement through the use of a variety of formative assessment tools
- We will meet individual needs by thinking “out of the box” and doing whatever it takes for *every* child
- We will enjoy the journey!

| <b>Evaluation Category</b>   | <b>Question Type</b> | <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Answer (Yes or No)</b> | <b>Campus Rating</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Fine Arts</b>   | <b>Compliance</b>    | <b>Does the campus provide TEKS-based fine arts courses taught by content specialists to meet state and local graduation requirements including the Arts and Humanities Endorsement?</b>                                | <b>Yes</b>                | <b>Exemplary</b>     |
|  | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide multiple opportunities for parents and community members to attend public shows &amp; performances?</b>  | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide parents with a variety of evidence for evaluating fine arts programs?</b>  | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus provide fine arts students numerous opportunities to interact with arts experts such as through private lessons, clinics, master classes, and university/community arts collaborations annually?</b> | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus provide students with opportunities to promote school and community culture/climate?</b>   | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
| <p>The district's fine arts curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Our campus offers multiple performance opportunities for students to participate in the Fine Arts. Students at Blanton have the opportunity to participate in art, choir, orchestra, ocarina and the PTA Reflections program. They have performed in concerts on campus, caroling, in area nursing homes, competitions, and music festivals. Students in the Squire Choir and Order of the Ocarina also perform at the Denton Tree Lighting and Denton Area Jazz Festival. Student art work is exhibited throughout Denton in a variety of locations, including businesses and the DISD Central Administration Office. Students also participate in a variety of productions hosted by TWU and UNT. Students interacted with a resident musician who shared his knowledge of the ocarina.</p> |                      |   |                           |                      |

| <b>Evaluation Category</b>   | <b>Question Type</b> | <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Answer (Yes or No)</b> | <b>Campus Rating</b> |
|--|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Wellness and PE</b>   | <b>Compliance</b>    | <b>Does the campus seek information from parents related to food allergies at the time of new student enrollment?</b> | <b>Yes</b>                | <b>Exemplary</b>     |
|  | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus offer opportunities to participate in community health and wellness events?</b>                    | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide community health and wellness resources and information?</b>                               | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus provide developmentally appropriate bullying prevention education programming?</b>                 | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|  | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus have procedures in place to assist students and staff during crises?</b>                           | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
| <p>Blanton Elementary is committed to promoting health and wellness habits for each student and our staff. We develop these habits with the support of our nurse through vision and hearing screenings, communication to parents and students from the nurse about community events, and health care tips. The school has a Running Club where students set goals and work toward achieving these goals to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle. Each year, we host a Fun Run and a Field Day, with an emphasis on the importance of exercise and good eating habits. Our school counselor provides guidance lessons and support for the Bully Buster Program, while supporting students on an individual level in small group settings. An Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) has been developed, shared and practiced throughout the year to help ensure the safety of our children and staff. Safety drills are practiced monthly and a support team is in place to assist students and staff during crisis.</p> |                      |   |                           |                      |

| Evaluation Category              | Question Type | Questions   | Answer (Yes or No) | Campus Rating |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Community and Parent Involvement | Compliance    | Does the campus welcome parents and community members in planning initiatives?  | Yes                | Exemplary     |
|                                  | Parent        | Does the campus implement programs to increase parent and community involvement including families without currently enrolled students? | Yes                |               |
|                                  | Parent        | Does the campus have a comprehensive, proactive communication plan to inform community members and parents regarding campus events?     | Yes                |               |
|                                  | Student       | Does the campus provide opportunities for students and parents to be actively involved together on campus?                              | Yes                |               |
|                                  | Student       | Does the campus provide students with opportunities to participate in activities that help the community?                               | Yes                |               |

At Blanton Elementary School, we have multiple opportunities for parent and community involvement. Parents and community members serve on our Campus Leadership team and also on our PTA executive board. In addition, we support community programs/volunteer activities such as the national Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students), annual UNITE Festival, and Family Fun Nights focused on providing enjoyable events to promote the importance of family time. Classroom websites are updated weekly with newsletters that include upcoming events and important dates. We utilize both phone and email blasts to communicate important events/happenings on our campus, as well as a weekly principal newsletter. Monthly PTA general meetings include grade level performances, along with seasonal programs such as our Winter Concert and Spring Concert. Blanton hosts an annual Science Extravaganza each spring to promote an excitement for science, which includes volunteer involvement by professors from both UNT and TWU. In the fall, our Blanton Reading Goal Team hosts the Story Book Character Day, which gives our students the opportunity to dress up as their favorite story book character, and our parents the chance to volunteer as 'guest readers' for the day. Blanton also hosts the Lantana 5k each September, which is a community activity.

| Evaluation Category    | Question Type         | Questions  | Answer (Yes or No) | Campus Rating |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| 21st Century Workforce | Elementary Compliance | Does the campus guidance curriculum teach students the interpersonal skills necessary for college/career readiness?                | Yes                | Exemplary     |
|                        | Secondary Compliance  | Do the campus CTE programs include district and community stakeholders in an advisory capacity?                                    | Yes                |               |
|                        | Parent                | Does the campus actively cultivate business, community, and university partnerships to support 21st century workforce development? | Yes                |               |
|                        | Parent                | Does the campus have systems in place for including parents in their child's preparation for the 21st century workforce?           | Yes                |               |
|                        | Student               | Does the campus offer enrichment and/or competitive events for the students to reinforce their 21st century workforce skills?      | Yes                |               |
|                        | Student               | Does the campus host "college days," "career days" or other events for students to show interest in post-secondary education?      | Yes                |               |

At Blanton Elementary School, the importance of preparing students for future success is a priority. Beginning in kindergarten, children participate in a guidance program that emphasizes the importance of 'being the voice' through respect, making good choices, service to others, personal safety, honesty, and internet safety. Through the collaborative efforts of our Campus Leadership Team, parents, staff, and community members work together to discuss school programs and plan for various activities. Our counselor organizes a Career Day for the campus in the spring in which community members and parents speak to students about their chosen careers: importance of, the education required to obtain, and how it benefits the community/world. Every Friday is designated as school spirit/college day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear college shirts to promote school loyalty and increase an interest/awareness in post-secondary education. We collaborate with our feeder schools as well to promote secondary readiness.

| <b>Evaluation Category</b>  | <b>Question Type</b> | <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Answer (Yes or No)</b> | <b>Campus Rating</b> |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Second Language Acquisition</b>  | <b>Compliance</b>    | <b>Does the campus provide yearly LPAC training for all required staff?</b>   | <b>Yes</b>                | <b>Recognized</b>    |
|   | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide opportunities for non-English speaking parents to know about student programs in the school and community?</b>   | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide communication in both Spanish and English?</b>   | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus have procedures in place to promote students' exit from BIL/ESL within 5 years of identification in elementary and 3 years of identification in secondary?</b> | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus offer opportunities for students to be exposed to multiple languages to promote second language acquisition?</b>   | <b>No</b>                 |                      |
| <p>Blanton Elementary School provides at least one ESL classroom at each grade level to support our students with language acquisition. Our teachers use strategies such as word walls, word of the day, peer support and technology applications. Communication is sent home weekly in both English and Spanish, as needed. ESL students are involved in goal setting activities that promote collaboration and support from multiple staff members, including our ESL specialist.</p> |                      |   |                           |                      |

| <b>Evaluation Category</b>  | <b>Question Type</b> | <b>Questions</b>  | <b>Answer (Yes or No)</b> | <b>Campus Rating</b> |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Digital Learning Environment</b>   | <b>Compliance</b>    | <b>Does the campus conduct annual training for students regarding digital citizenship and acceptable use of technology?</b>                     | <b>Yes</b>                | <b>Exemplary</b>     |
|   | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide technology training and professional development opportunities for all teachers, parents, and community members?</b> | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Parent</b>        | <b>Does the campus provide a public Wi-Fi signal that parents and guests can use to connect to online resources?</b>                            | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Does the campus utilize specialists in instructional technology to engage teachers and students with technology integration?</b>             | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
|   | <b>Student</b>       | <b>Do the campus teachers actively leverage technology to engage students in the learning process?</b>  | <b>Yes</b>                |                      |
| <p>At the beginning of each school year, the Student Code of Conduct and Technology Acceptable Use Policy are distributed and reviewed by students, parents and staff. Throughout the year, multiple training opportunities are provided for teachers in the use of such devices as iPods, iPads, CPS units, Chromebooks, and SMARTboards. Our staff follows a peer teacher model, where we share best practices throughout the year on the integration of technology into the lesson cycle. All district facilities are equipped with public Wi-Fi signal that allows parents and guests to access the internet while on site. DISD provides campus specialists to assist with training, equipment repair/replacement, and integration. In collaboration with our PTA, training opportunities are provided that focus on technology use and safety. Blanton's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms provide technology at a ratio of 1:1 through Chromebooks. These are kept in the classrooms so that technology becomes a daily part of learning. Students in grades K-3 also have Chromebooks, iPads, and computers in their classrooms.</p> |                      |   |                           |                      |

| Evaluation Category           | Question Type | Questions  | Answer (Yes or No) | Campus Rating |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Dropout Prevention Strategies | Compliance    | Does the campus have a system of intervention ( <i>Response to Intervention</i> ) for supporting all students?   | Yes                | Exemplary     |
|                               | Parent        | Does the campus direct parents to research/information regarding the relationship between poor attendance and drop-out rates?                                      | Yes                |               |
|                               | Parent        | Does the campus provide opportunities for parents that reinforce the importance and value of education to students' futures?                                       | Yes                |               |
|                               | Student       | Does the campus have a systemic plan for maximizing attendance/minimizing absenteeism?   | Yes                |               |
|                               | Student       | Does the campus utilize age appropriate opportunities to engage students in college and career readiness activities to increase graduation rates/prevent dropouts? | Yes                |               |

Blanton Elementary School utilizes a Response to Intervention (RtI) team to support students requiring individualized support for continuous improvement, with documentation collected through the district AWARE program. This committee convenes on a student-by-student basis in order to address on-going concerns in a supportive and timely manner. Each grade level team has developed a positive support plan to encourage students to be at school and on time. Each classroom maintains a system of data collection and self-assessment for each student. Students are able to see their goals and progress and share their achievements. In addition, classroom newsletters/websites are used to communicate the importance of good attendance to parents, students, and community members. A Career Day is hosted each spring by our school counselor, providing multiple opportunities for students to interact with local business people as well as our very own parents.

| Evaluation Category                                 | Question Type | Questions  | Answer (Yes or No) | Campus Rating |
|---|---------------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Education Programs for Gifted and Talented Students | Compliance    | Does the campus have a systemic plan to ensure that Gifted and Talented teachers meet the professional learning standard for new teachers (30 hours) and for annual updates (6 hours)? | Yes                | Exemplary     |
|   | Parent        | Does the campus provide parents with the opportunity to participate in meaningful experiences related to the education of gifted students?   | Yes                |               |
|   | Parent        | Does the campus provide parents with opportunities to participate in the nomination/consideration of students for gifted and talented services?  | Yes                |               |
|   | Student       | Does the campus provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to participate in extracurricular activities that reinforce a variety of academic and creative skills?          | Yes                |               |
|   | Student       | Does the campus provide a variety of instructional and support services for gifted and talented students?  | Yes                |               |

Blanton's Gifted and Talented (EXPO) program successfully served 63 students, to include grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The students excitedly reached learning requirements and goals through cooperative groups and independent research. Students not only shared their learning with each other, but with the campus student body through their EXPO Expose'. The Expose' exhibited their learning of how mathematics & the Fibonacci sequence applies to architecture, computer coding as they explore the scientific principles of simple machines, and recreating the scientific methods of mysterious enigmas, in such projects as the Architectural Showcase, Lego Robotics Amusement Park, the Enigma QR Code Mystery Museum, as well as the creativity & problem solving strategies used during the Kindergarten Chopped Challenge. Students were able to monitor and assess their learning by collecting data daily both individually and collectively. Students used the collected data to challenge their

learning, bringing attention to their specific learning style, and to grow successful learning behaviors. The collection of this data not only increased their learning in the EXPO classroom, but enabled students to transfer these skills within their homeroom. EXPO students were able to practice & share their advanced learning styles with other learners through activities like after school clubs such as B.A.T.S (Blanton's Academy of Technology Scholars) and S.T.E.M Academies. EXPO not only strengthened their intellect, but their social and emotional needs through community outreach by maintaining an ongoing commitment to the South African Water Project and by donating classroom books toward a local book drive for young readers in need.