

## Sylvan Hills Elementary School

Principal: Jason Young

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Sylvan Hills Elementary School is one of the newest additions to the Arkansas A+ Schools network. The school is located in Sherwood and is part of the Pulaski County Special School District. It has 501 students in Pre-K through 5th grades. In the spring, the faculty voted unanimously in favor of becoming an Arkansas A+ school. Since then, the faculty has been working at making positive changes to their teaching methods and are already seeing great results. A majority of the faculty attended the 5 day summer training and have been incorporating some of the techniques they learned into their classrooms. Most classes have utilized the Reader's Theatre and have seen improvements in fluency and comprehension. Just walking through the school you will notice that it is alive with creative learning activities and a variety of student work is on display.



Students are experiencing more hands-on lessons and getting to experience more arts-integration with full-time art and music teachers coming into the classrooms to provide enrichment lessons. In music, students were able to experience singing songs and playing games from the continent they were studying in their classroom. In art, they made works of art representative of different cultures. The school has planned a

Cultural Fair as a culminating event following the first nine weeks study of the continents. Student work and presentations of most continents will be on display to celebrate our world. Each grade level will be able to take a tour through each of the displays to learn more about the world around them.



One of the most exciting changes in the school is the 4th and 5th grade club rotation. Students in each grade were divided into small groups of no more than twelve students. Throughout the year the groups will rotate and each student will get to experience each club for 4 weeks. The specialty teachers created their club to spark creativity or to enhance learning in the classroom. The seven clubs include Theatre 101, Bucket Drumming, Book Club, Math and Art, Kids For Character Reader's Theatre, and science/physics experiments.

The Kids for Character club is led by our school counselor, Mrs. Clara Brown. In the club, students discuss the character word for the month. They then write a skit to present to the Pre-K and Kindergarten classes. They rehearse the skit and along with it present a reader's theatre. Fifth grade student Jackson Verdell said about the club, "I really enjoyed getting to make up our skit. I got to be the leader, it was fun being the teacher and picking the kids to be called on to answer the questions we asked. I really liked our Character club." The clubs have not only

provided enrichment in the arts, but have been an asset in providing positive motivation for learning in the classroom.

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