

Outstanding Rural School District

Shell Knob #78

Shell Knob, Missouri

Shell Knob #78 School District "*Home of the Chargers,*" is a small, rural district located in Barry County in Southwest Missouri. The school district of Shell Knob is located in the Ozark Mountains, established in 1835, and today is part of an active lake resort area on Table Rock's quiet side. The Shell Knob School District's current enrollment, of approximately 140 students, includes Kindergarten thru grade 8.

The philosophy of the Shell Knob school district is very evident from the district mission statement. "Education is the Bridge to the Future," is noted as Shell Knob School demonstrates excellence in three areas that enable student to succeed. The three areas include enrichment activities, community partnerships, and meaningful relationships among all stockholders.

There are many different avenues for students to be active with both academic and extra-curricular activities. The district promotes a student organized history and science fair. Band students participate in different community events such as Veteran's Day and various holiday functions. Each year students work hard to prepare for contests against other schools. The many activities it is likely every student in school is involved in at least one.

Community partnerships are helpful to the school. Several local organizations and churches offer a wide variety of goods and services to the school, especially to any student that is in need of extra assistance. Perhaps the most valuable is the school mentoring program where community members volunteer to help students with their school work.

Most importantly, Shell Knob School fosters meaningful relationships among all stakeholders, school board members, administrators, faculty, support staff and students making them a very cohesive group. As a small, rural district, it is often hard to compete with larger districts, however, all work to find solutions for problems.

The Shell Knob School may not have the largest student body, most money, or the biggest buildings, however, they do have heart and a genuine interest in the students and faculty that walk through the door each day. To the Shell Knob School District board of education, the administration, the staff, students and community for a job well done and your selection as the Outstanding Rural Missouri School District for 2011.