



Outstanding Rural School District - 2019

Hickory Co. R-I School District

Urbana, Missouri

Hickory County R-I School District is a rural K-12 district located in Urbana, Missouri in the lower West Central portion of the state. The district has a K-12 student population of 701 spread out over a geographical area of roughly 300 square miles. The school district was formed in 1958 when the small schools of Cross Timbers, Preston, Urbana and Tunas consolidated. The district serves as the focal point of community activities.

The list of accomplishments for Hickory Co. R-I is very impressive. Hickory Co. R-I School District has earned the Missouri Gold Star School award twice, National Blue Ribbon distinction twice and has been consistently named one of the Best High Schools in the Nation by US News & World Report. The district has maintained high marks on the APR for the past several years and received Performance in Distinction for eight consecutive years from 2005-2013 when the program ended. The district has also enjoyed tremendous success athletically at conference, district and state levels as well as receiving numerous awards in FFA, FCCLA and FBLA at the district, state and even national levels.

Area Supervisor, Shelly Aubuchon, had this to say about Hickory Co. R-I, "The Hickory County School District is truly an exemplary school district. In Skyline's learning community, there is a place for every student to find success and a sense of belonging. The staff are committed to their students, working to help them discover their paths for future success. This district and its community follow the belief prominently displayed in front of the building; "Skyline - Where Every Kid Matters."

Terry Reid, former administrator and MARE Executive Board Member, shares, "Dr. Mark Beem has assembled an outstanding team of administrators, faculty and staff. This district's focus is on instruction and achievement and that vision is shared by all district employees and stakeholders."

Superintendent, Dr. Mark Beem, shares his personal feeling about rural matters, noting, "Our people believe in rural schools. We also believe that small towns and school districts are the best place to raise our kids and offer them great experiences as a student."

The Missouri Association of Rural Education is proud to recognize Hickory Co. R-I as the 2019 "Outstanding Rural School District". Congratulations!