

King Elementary School is one of six elementary schools located in the Van Buren School District in Van Buren, Arkansas. King School Mission Statements says:

Our goal at King School is to offer students a safe and pleasant environment that provides for learning and achievement for every child.

Our Curriculum is:

- *Student centered*
- *Enables our students to be knowledgeable, competent problem-solvers*
- *Utilizes various aspects of technology to enhance academic success*
- *Equips students to function in an informational, technological world*
- *Provides ongoing, multiple evaluations*

Our faculty is dedicated to the idea that we must meet all students' changing needs in order to encourage the best learning possible. The King School community actively involves parents, community, faculty and staff for one common goal: our children's education.

As we forge into a new LEED building, it has been essential that we step back and look at our school mission. We are preparing to gain knowledge of this new building and opportunities to help make our learning environment a better place. We are also taking steps to promote the protection of our environment through our new energy efficient features and to teach our school community about the effect they have on our environment. As our mission states, "The King School community actively involves parents, community, faculty and staff..." we are gaining this knowledge in order to educate and promote awareness of our LEED facility and to encourage some of the same practices at home and in our community.

The King Elementary School LEED Committee has been researching ways to build a curriculum that integrates the high performance features of our new building into the content. We have studied and attended workshops that will enable teachers to enrich the current curriculum and standards along with the new Common Core Standards that we are implementing. Teachers have already begun educating, building awareness, and encouraging our faculty, students, parents, and community regarding the many building features that conserve energy, protect our environment, and support the "reduce, reuse, and recycle" approach.

All students, kindergarten through fourth grade, will study weather and the water cycle. During this unit of study, students will delve into a study of our rain water harvesting system. Students will learn about the collection system, and work on graphing skills as they graph amounts of harvested water used. This rain water harvesting system reduces the need for potable water to be used for flushing the toilets and diverts water from the storm water drainage system.

Each grade level will also be integrating “reducing, reusing, and recycling” as a part of their “Nature of Science” curriculum. For example, fourth grade classes have just begun this type of unit, using the Nature of Science standards for collecting and representing data gathered as part of a project to recycle plastic bags. During this unit students will:

- Learn the importance of recycling and using recyclable materials, even for building materials such as insulation, ceiling tiles, carpet and porcelain tile used in our building.
- Compete against other fourth grade classes to practice recycling. They are using the on-site storage and collection in order to recycle plastic bags.
- Learn about how long waste lasts in a landfill and how the planet and human ecology are affected.
- Keep “waste diary” and collect data in our classroom about the waste thrown away.
- Collaboratively work on energy conservation by participating in the America’s Home Energy Challenge. Third and fourth grade classes are competing to help families create a plan for conserving energy at home. Families work together to enter their electric information online for four months last year, and compared to the same four months this year.
- Work collaboratively to create a grade level poster that represents a plan to conserve energy in homes. This poster/plan will be submitted for points to America’s Home Energy Challenge.
- Participate in the Fitness Energy Challenge which helps students work on their fitness and health and have a better understanding of their human ecology.

There are many features in our new LEED building that provide a plethora of learning opportunities. These building features can be used as teaching tools, as well as instruments to promote awareness. While students are learning about the different features of the LEED building, they are also using their other curricular skills, such as, “enabling our students to be knowledgeable, competent problem-solvers” and equipping students to function in an informational, technological world.”

LEED Building Features	
Feature	Uses
Rain Water Harvesting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science/Math Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of data/graphing opportunities for students Build environmental awareness
Common Meeting Areas (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student work of curriculum studied Parental involvement shown during student-led conferences, open house, and other community events Building features highlighted Local artist's work (sense of community) Special presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers to present to classes about building features or LEED curriculum related
Geothermal Wells for heating/cooling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science/Math Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checking locations of wells with Global Positioning System (GPS) Plotting wells on a Coordinate plane for graphing purposes
Three-tiered Outdoor Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, organize, plant, and maintenance of outdoor classroom Student learning will include: wetlands, habitats, gardening, greenhouse, composting, etc.
Garage doors (three large located in gym, adjacent to outdoor patio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating the indoor/outdoor learning environments Fresh air for learning, physical activity, and playing
Playground (left at original location)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides more opportunity for physical activity for students and faculty Grant pending for native trees, journals, and tree identification books

Our LEED Committee is continuing to find resources, grants, and workshops that will help support our staff in the teaching and learning as it relates to our new LEED building. They have also submitted several grants and requested numerous ecology kits to help promote the newly implemented LEED curriculum. We look forward to seeing results of our integrated curriculum as we educate ourselves, students, parents, and community, for years to come.

King Elementary School of Van Buren School District agrees to the following:

We will implement our LEED curriculum within 10 months of LEED Certification.

We will meet local and state curriculum standards.

Our curriculum will be reviewed and approved by school administrators.

We will provide a minimum of 10 hours of classroom instruction per year per student using the LEED Curriculum.

LEED Curriculum Steering Committee:

Martha Ragar, Principal

Lisa Mayfield, 4th Grade Teacher

Kim Doss, 3rd Grade Teacher

April Evans, 1st Grade Teacher

Jolie Hobbs, Special Education Teacher