

A graphic of a spotlight shining down from the top center of the page, creating a yellow cone of light that illuminates the school's name and the introductory text.

Spotlight School

Cold Hill Elementary
Laurel County

GRADES SERVED: K-5

Cold Hill Elementary, located in southwest Laurel County, is a small yet strong community-oriented school just five miles from London, Kentucky. Nestled between the fast-paced I-75 corridor and the scenic Daniel Boone National Forest, the school embodies a balance between rural charm and urban connectivity.

With a student population of 255 from preschool through 5th grade and a staff of approximately 45, Cold Hill fosters a close-knit, family-like atmosphere. Teachers and students build relationships that extend beyond the classroom, creating a supportive environment where expectations and procedures are implemented consistently. The school takes pride in its diverse student body, with nearly 10% representing minority backgrounds. A culture of inclusivity ensures that all students are valued for their character, leadership and contributions.

At Cold Hill, relationships come first. The school operates under the philosophy that when students feel safe and loved, learning follows. Every staff member—from administration to bus drivers—embraces this mindset, prioritizing students' well-being as the foundation for academic success. Professional learning community (PLC) discussions begin with students' personal challenges before addressing academic progress.

The strong rapport with families is a cornerstone of Cold Hill's culture. Staff members maintain open communication, ensuring parents feel heard and supported. The school's welcoming environment, built on trust and care, is evident from the moment one walks through the doors.

PRINCIPAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

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DEMOGRAPHICS

61.2% Economically Disadvantaged

34% Students with Disabilities

3.4% English Learner Students

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL:

- 1.** Empowering students to take ownership of their learning by reflecting on their own data and setting goals
- 2.** Establishing core values to promote positive school culture
- 3.** Involving parents and families to strengthen the academic support system for students
- 4.** Engaging students to enhance learning, motivation and overall academic success

SERVICES AND STRATEGIES USED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

The administration and staff at Cold Hill Elementary collaborate with district leaders to implement curriculum programs that align with the school's vision, with district support extending to the development of common assessments for monitoring student progress. School leaders and instructional staff analyze data from various sources, including classroom observations, Reading Mastery placement tests, Amira fluency benchmarks and i-Ready diagnostic assessments in math and reading, to tailor instruction and interventions for student success.

Student engagement remains a top priority at Cold Hill Elementary. The school fosters a positive learning environment through recognition programs such as pep rallies celebrating academic achievement, attendance and extracurricular success. Incentives include monthly attendance rewards, Accelerated Reader recognition, Kentucky Summative Assessment medals and motivational events tied to i-Ready diagnostics. Students who exemplify the values of the Cold Hill Pledge are honored as CUBS of the Month.

Family involvement is a cornerstone of the school's culture, with events like Family Reading Nights, Book Fair After-Hours, and Breakfast and Books fostering engagement. Annual traditions such as Grandparent's Day Breakfast, Veteran's Day celebrations and First Responders Day strengthen community ties. Seasonal events, including a Christmas Sing-along, talent shows and packed-house basketball games, academic matches and archery tournaments, further enhance the school experience.

Beyond academics, the Family Resource Center provides essential support to families, offering weekly food bags, holiday assistance and other resources to meet out-of-school needs. Through strong partnerships and a commitment to student well-being, Cold Hill Elementary ensures a supportive and engaging educational environment for all.

WHAT DATA SUPPORTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES AND STRATEGIES OFFERED?

- 2024 National Blue Ribbon School

Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)

- 2022 - 89.7 Very High Blue
- 2023 - 95.2 Very High Blue
- 2024 - 95 Very High Blue

Each year, Cold Hill Elementary assesses areas of strength and concern, adapting plans to address challenges and celebrate successes based on the specific needs of students and classrooms. In addition to KSA data, the school relies on several key resources to guide instruction and measure progress, including consistent high achievement and growth on i-Ready diagnostics, monitoring growth through Reading Mastery, Reflex Math mastery assessments, and district-wide standards-based writing checks and On-Demand practice. These data-driven strategies ensure a responsive approach to student learning and continuous improvement.

WHAT CHALLENGES HAS THE SCHOOL FACED? HOW WERE THEY OVERCOME?

Cold Hill Elementary faces challenges common across the state, including meeting diverse student needs with a small staff and limited resources. However, the school's success is driven by the dedication and talent of its staff. An "all hands-on deck" approach ensures that both students and educators receive the support they need, fostering a collaborative environment that contributes to the school's achievements.

WHAT ADVICE DOES THIS SCHOOL SUGGEST TO SCHOOLS ON THEIR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION?

Cold Hill Elementary's success is not rooted in a single practice but in a dedicated team that ensures all strategies are effectively implemented and continuously monitored. Rather than relying on a single curriculum or approach, the school emphasizes a collaborative effort to select and apply the most effective instructional methods, data-driven interventions and supplemental support as needed.

Teachers play a crucial role by analyzing multiple data sources, making informed instructional decisions and maintaining open communication with both grade-level teams and vertical partners. Transparency in data allows educators to track student progress, align instruction with individual needs and set clear goals for continued growth. Regular data reviews ensure that instructional plans remain responsive and targeted.

Support staff, including intervention teams, cafeteria workers, custodians, transportation personnel, Family Resource Center staff and office staff all contribute to student success. Their collaboration with teachers and administration reinforces a schoolwide commitment to ensuring that every student receives the necessary support and opportunities to thrive. Cold Hill's defining strength is its culture of teamwork where dedicated and caring professionals come together daily to make a meaningful impact.



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