

A yellow spotlight beam shines down from a dark blue lamp icon at the top center, illuminating the title and the text below it.

# Spotlight School

## **Farmington Elementary** *Graves County*

**GRADES SERVED: K-6**

Farmington Elementary is often referred to as a hidden gem in Graves County. It is a school where relationships are built across all grade levels, from preschool to 6th grade. Unlike many schools that have separate buildings for different grade levels, Farmington maintains a single hallway connecting all its students, fostering strong bonds between students of all ages.

Located in a rural farming community, Farmington serves many families involved in agriculture. The school is situated in a building that has been in use since 1982. The local churches play a significant role in supporting the school, providing supplies and hosting events like back-to-school meals for students and their families.

The heart of Farmington Elementary lies in the relationships built within its walls. Staff members take the time to greet each student with care and attention, ensuring they feel valued and loved every day. This culture of warmth and support extends beyond teachers to include bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers and other support staff who are integral to the school's success.

The school's success is also attributed to its commitment to professional learning communities (PLCs), where staff meet regularly to discuss student progress. These meetings focus not only on academics but also on addressing any challenges students may face outside the classroom. By considering the whole child, the staff works collaboratively to ensure that every student's needs are met, contributing to the development of each student's potential.

### **PRINCIPAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

**63.1% Economically Disadvantaged**

**38% Students with Disabilities**

**1.5% English Learner Students**

## **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL:**

- 1.** The importance of relationships with high expectations
- 2.** Data collection and analysis for response to intervention systems
- 3.** Looping students to build stronger relationships and understanding of student needs

## SERVICES AND STRATEGIES USED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

### Teaching and Learning Based on State Standards

Teachers design instruction aligned with Kentucky state-approved standards, ensuring students acquire essential skills and knowledge across subjects. Curricula are regularly reviewed to remain rigorous and relevant, and lessons are scaffolded to meet students varying readiness levels. Assessment data drives instructional adjustments, allowing educators to provide targeted support and enrichment where needed.

### Use of Evidence-Based Instructional Strategies

Staff implement proven strategies, such as differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, and the use of formative assessments to guide real-time adjustments to teaching. Technology integration, hands-on learning, and small-group instruction further support engagement and mastery. Professional development sessions ensure teachers are equipped with the latest research-based methods to enhance learning outcomes.

### Opportunities for Student Success

Farmington provides a range of opportunities to ensure every student can succeed, regardless of ability or background. This includes intervention programs for struggling learners, enrichment activities for advanced students and accommodations for those with special needs. Regular monitoring of student progress allows the staff to proactively address challenges and celebrate achievements.

### Partnerships with Parents, Families and Communities

Strong partnerships with families are cultivated through regular communication, parent-teacher conferences and Family Reading Nights. The Family Resource Center (FRC) plays a huge role in connecting the students and families together to make sure that all students/families have what they need in order to be successful every day.

### Wraparound, Extracurricular Activities and Other Supports

Wraparound services, such as counseling, Mt. Comp and FRC, help ensure the child is ready to learn. Extracurricular activities, including basketball, football, cheer, archery, academic team and STLP club, provide outlets for creativity and skill-building outside the classroom.

## WHAT DATA SUPPORTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES AND STRATEGIES OFFERED?

- Consistently high-performing Blue school rating on Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)
- Blue Ribbon School 2023-2024

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

Farmington, like many schools, faced significant struggles during the Covid-19 pandemic. They have also navigated ongoing adversity related to challenges many students experience at home. With a large portion of their students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, many families face financial hardships. Some students come to school carrying the weight of housing insecurity, food scarcity or family stress, all of which can impact emotional well-being, focus and academic performance.

Despite these challenges, the school community has worked together to overcome them. Staff members have built strong, trusting relationships with students, providing emotional support and creating a safe space where every child feels seen and valued. The school has implemented programs such as breakfast and lunch services for all students, weekend backpack food programs and partnerships with the Family Resource Center to provide clothing, school supplies and other necessities.

Through these efforts, resilience and success have grown among Farmington's students. By addressing basic needs, offering emotional support and fostering a nurturing environment, the school has helped many children overcome hardships outside the classroom and thrive within it.

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

High expectations and strong relationships are pivotal to sustaining achievement and success in an elementary school. High expectations set a clear standard of excellence, motivating students and staff to strive for their best and fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. When paired with supportive relationships, these expectations become achievable, as trust and collaboration create an environment where students feel valued and empowered to take risks in their learning. Teachers who build strong relationships with their students can tailor instruction to meet individual needs, while also inspiring confidence and perseverance. Similarly, strong connections between the school, families and the broader community ensure that everyone is working toward common goals, creating a united and resilient support network. Together, high expectations and positive relationships form a foundation for long-term success, where academic and personal growth go hand in hand.



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