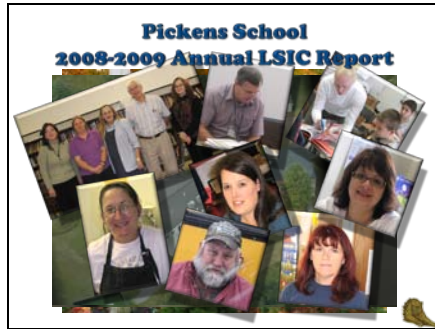


Slide 1



Pickens School is nestled in a high mountain valley in Randolph County and serves 28 families from the Upshur County line to Sugar Grove Road to Nettle Run. It is over an hour's drive from Elkins.

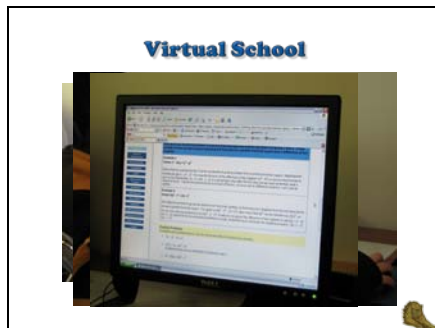
Pickens School includes 44 students in grades K-12 and is staffed by 8 teachers, 1 secretary, 1 cook, 1 custodian/water operator, and one bus driver.

Slide 2



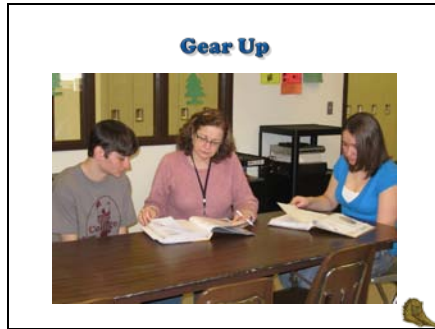
Because of the small student population, multiple grade levels are taught in 5 classrooms. The grade configurations are K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Pickens School also has a gymnasium, cafeteria, library, and computer lab. Students at all levels use the gym, cafeteria, and library. All students except K-2 use the Computer Lab. The K-2 students have computers in their classroom.

Slide 3



Classroom instruction is supplemented by technologies such as the "Virtual School." The virtual school provides Internet-based Advanced Placement classes, giving students a head start on college classes. Two students are currently taking Algebra II through the Virtual School. A wide range of classes such as foreign languages, social studies, history, and math are available at both Middle and High School levels.

Slide 4



Gear Up is a Federally funded program for students in grades 9 and 10 which encourages the students to attend college. It promotes the use of the Virtual School and provides students with tutoring, computers, and free Internet Access through the Gear Up Student Computer Scholarship. In the classroom, Gear Up has provided interactive electronic whiteboards to demonstrate computer activities. The Gear Up Bash starts the academic year by bringing students, parents, and teachers together for a meal at the Hutte restaurant. The Spring Formal is partially sponsored by Gear Up and is the last event in the Gear Up Year.

Slide 5



Students at Pickens School study Fine Arts including Theater and Music. In Theater, students write and perform plays. During October, the class put on a puppet play for the entire school and they produced the annual holiday play which they wrote and casted. The students learn music through tradition methods and through modern technology. The Music Class has gotten a keyboard, laptop computer, digital recorder, video projector, and stereo speakers through a grant from the Clay Foundation. These allow the teacher to demonstrate music skills and the students to record the music as they play. After recording, the music may be edited using the computer.

Slide 6



The Arts Bank provides an art instructor for kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade once a week for 10 weeks. This year, students are learning pottery, painting, and mosaics. These students are creating Native American masks.

Slide 7



Students at Pickens School regularly achieve significant awards and recognition within the school, the county, and the state. These are accomplished by individual students, groups of students, and the entire student body. The awards are for academics and athletics. And, the awards have been continuous for many years.

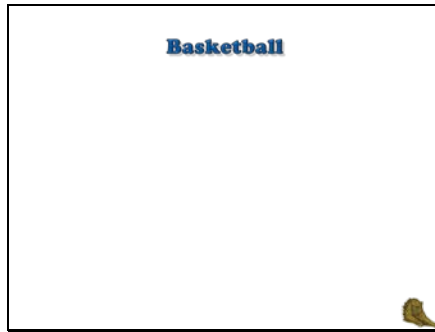
Slide 8



Special events this year include Ken Johnson, a motivational speaker who was sponsored by Gear Up. He encouraged students to achieve their goals by staying in school and developing good character traits. Maid Sylvia visited Pickens School to provide students with Forest Festival programs and encourage their participation. A Biology Class project showed a large-scale model whale with students giving presentations on topics such as "Why the whale is a mammal and not a fish," "Different Types of Whales," and "Why Don't Whales Get the Bends." Students were able to walk through the 90 foot

long model. Students in grades K-5 participated in a Pumpkin Carving project rather than having classroom Halloween parties. Parents assisted children with the carving. The Junior and Senior Classes raise funds for the Senior Class Trip, Formal dance, yearbook, and basketball team insurance by selling and delivering pizzas 3 to 4 times a year. They also have bake sales.

Slide 9



Pickens School will again have a coed basketball team—the Pickens Panthers. The team (shown in a practice scrimmage) plays in the YMCA league and the Coalton Youth Basketball League, as well as against private school and church teams. One of the most popular games of the season is when the student team plays the Alumni team. The students usually win.

Slide 10



Volunteers help keep Pickens School in top shape and supplied with recreational opportunities for students. A three year fundraising effort culminated this Summer with the installation of new playground equipment appropriate for elementary and middle school students.

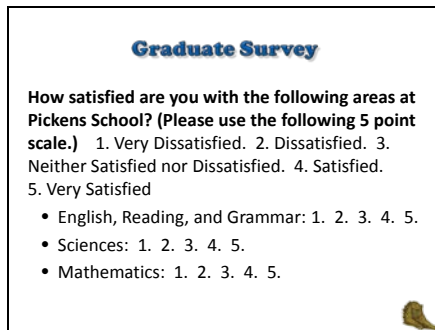
The PTSO recruited volunteers who spent two Saturdays installing the equipment. In addition, Allegheny Wood Products donated bark padding to provide safety under the equipment and Kelly Trucking hauled the material.

Slide 11



Community and parent volunteers assist with projects such as the playground equipment installation, Book Fair, field trips, basketball, and classroom tutoring.

Slide 12



The Local School Improvement Council at Pickens School is dedicated to the continuous improvement of educational opportunities for our students.

A special project planned for the 2008-2009 school year is a survey of all graduates of Pickens School for the last 10 years. The survey will elicit information on how well the graduates feel they were prepared for life after high school whether they went to college, into the work force, or into the military. The Pickens School PTSO is providing the funding for the survey

and faculty of West Virginia University are providing assistance with developing the questions and evaluating responses.

Slide 13



Results of the graduate survey will be used by administration and staff to shape instructional methods and programs. School personnel will also address issues such as confidence building and study skills if the survey indicates a strong need. We do believe we will get a good response to the survey. What we hear from our former students is that Pickens School is not just a place you graduate from, leave behind. Our Annual Pickens School Alumni Banquet draws around 150 guests each year, including some who graduated over 60 years ago.

Slide 14



What is a school? Is it a building? Is it the faculty and staff? The students? The classes? The achievements? The activities? Or, is it just a mascot and a motto?

We believe that Pickens School is all of these—and more! When these separate pieces are carefully fitted together and well tended, the whole is indeed greater than the sum of the parts. The result is opportunity! The Pickens School LSIC is dedicated to increasing opportunity for our students.

Slide 15



The Pickens School LSIC hopes that you find this information useful for understanding activities at Pickens School. We are eager to work with you to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for our children. We are Diane Betler, Principal and half-time classroom teacher for grades 3-5; Betty Biggs, Service Personnel (Cook); Emily Biggs, Student in the Sophomore class; Velda Booth, Parent; Melissa Browning, Parent; Chuck Chandler, Parent; John Coleman, Service Personnel (Bus Driver); Phillip Hudok, Teacher of science for grades 6-12; Donna Knotts, Teacher of Reading, Language Arts, and English as well as Guidance Counselor and Gear Up Site Coordinator; Sam Knotts, Community Member and owner of Appalachian Fly Fishing Guide Service, representing business; Wanda Scott, Teacher for grades K-2; Charles "Smokey" Toms, Community Member; and Dave Whipp, Community Member representing technology. We thank you very much.

