

Satanta, Kansas

Ardith Dunn, Superintendent, USD 507

Satanta is a small rural town in southwest Kansas. It is located in the western half of Haskell County. The population of Satanta is approximately 1200 people. The school district, USD 507, is comprised of two building levels: K-6 and 7-12. The student count averages approximately 400 students over the past 5 years with the enrollment steadily declining. We are classified as a 2A school for activity purposes.

Because of our location and the surrounding business and industry, the demographics of the community have changed. The farming economy is dealing with limited water resources, which has changed the types of crops raised. Farmers are raising cotton, milo, and soybeans instead of corn and wheat. These types of crops require workers that are prone to migration. Three of the five area feed lots have doubled in size over the last five years. A dairy has developed just west of our school district. This has created additional jobs that are traditionally occupied by the Hispanic or German/Mennonite migrant population.

Within the school population, we have noticed a rise in the Hispanic and German/Mennonite populations. Although most of the individual classes contain a majority of Caucasians, there are a few classes with a majority of Hispanics. The diversity of cultures in our community has changed drastically within the last 5-7 years.

The community has been very accepting of the migrant populations. People realize the need for agricultural workers. The challenge has been a language barrier. To help with this dilemma, a couple of the local churches began conducting services in Spanish. The school is trying to help by printing all documents in two languages to help facilitate parent communication. Translators are provided for parent/teacher conferences, special education staffing, and other meetings.

The school uses different resources to help students adapt and be involved. All students are encouraged to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Extra services are provided for students with academic challenges. We are continually trying to involve the migrant population on site councils, vocational committees, and other parent organizations.

The district mission statement reads:

Satanta Unified School district #507 will provide all students the opportunity to develop and demonstrate the essential skills necessary to maintain a balanced learning, leisure, and work experience throughout life in a changing society.

Migrant Program Services:

USD 507 is committed to the above mission statement and has made significant strides to ensure that all students achieve academically. The following services have been developed to provide support to our Migrant students and families.

- ESL personnel at the elementary (K-6) and junior-senior high (7-12)
- Transition classes and paraprofessional assistance available to provide needed support for fluency in the English language

- ESL classes at the junior-senior high level to provide assistance in understanding, comprehension, and any adjustments for survival in a predominantly English setting
- Paraprofessionals (K-12) to assist teachers in classroom
- Two recruiters to help families with transition to a new environment and to recruit for the migrant program
- Funding provided for materials needed outside the regular classroom
- Bilingual paraprofessionals to help with student and family communication
- Staff in-service on cooperative learning and inclusion
- District provides funding for classes towards ESL certification for instructors
- District provides stipend for teachers that have ESL plan on file or completed ESL endorsement