

Presented by:  
Battle Rock Charter School

Prepared for:  
Community Partners



# 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



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[www.battlerockschool.org](http://www.battlerockschool.org)





# A YEAR AT A GLANCE

## BATTLE ROCK SCHOOL

Dear Stakeholders,

We have officially completed another epic chapter in this story of Battle Rock, and it's hard to believe that all the changes took place in 12 months. During this 2023-24 school year, we have completed construction on a beautiful library, secured a nearly \$700,000 grant to build a new playscape, and witnessed unprecedented academic growth, as shown by our IReady test scores. In addition, we celebrate that 38% of our students flagged with significant reading deficiency in the fall were reading at grade level in the spring. Finally, we are so pleased to have reintroduced our 6th grade trip to the Grand Canyon for the first time since before the pandemic.

It's the many things, both big and small that have contributed to such a great year. We hope you will celebrate with us.

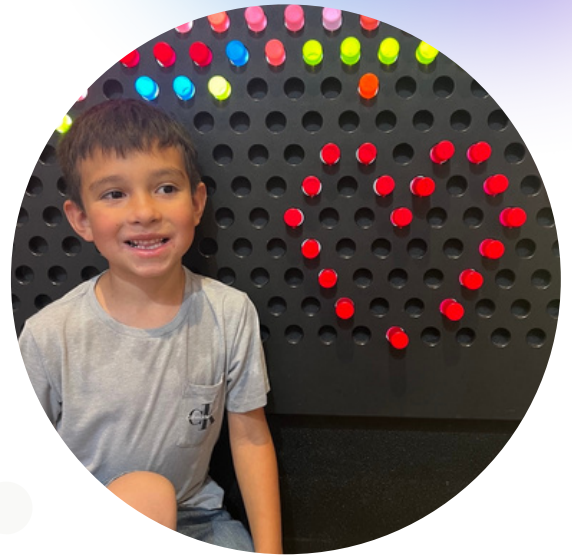
In gratitude,

The Battle Rock Leadership Team



# VISION

We aspire to pioneer best practices in education. To build forward from the foundation of our one-room schoolhouse. To serve as a community hub for innovation and social development.



# MISSION

**We believe** success starts with nurturing relationships between students, staff, families and our community through restorative practices.

**We believe** Battle Rock should be a place where students, staff and families feel safe.

**We believe** in educating the whole child through the arts, outdoor experiences, and social-emotional learning.

**We believe** all children should interact with other children of different ages and abilities.

**We believe** learning should be authentic and, therefore, subjects should be integrated.

**We believe** high expectations are an important part of academic and personal success.

**We believe** our location in McElmo Canyon is an authentic environment for children to explore and celebrate history.

**IT IS BATTLE ROCK'S MISSION TO USE THESE GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO INFORM OUR EVERY ACTION.  
WE SEEK TO BUILD ON THE LEGACY AND SPIRIT OF BATTLE ROCK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**





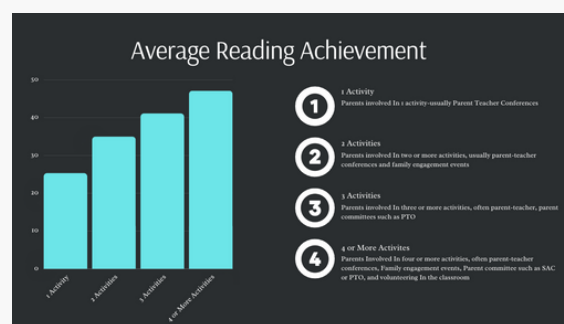
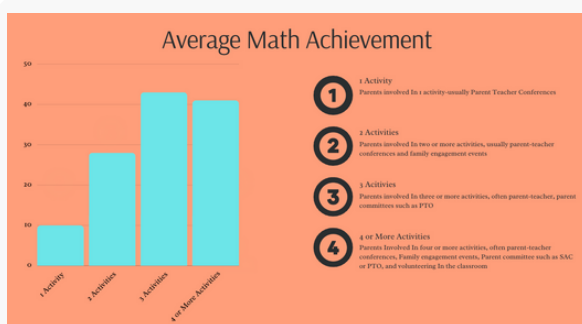


# PARENTS AS PARTNERS

At Battle Rock, we value family partnership and work hard to build relationships with our student's greatest supporters. This year, one of our major Improvement strategies was to increase parent engagement and we set a goal that By April of 2024, 95% of families would have attended a school event. Through securing the federally funded Stronger Connections Grant, we were able to allocate funds to provide food at our family engagement events, child care at our PTO meetings, and support monthly meetings at the Zu Gallery to build connections and provide support to our families. Attendance data was collected at each event to measure the success of this goal. Activities considered engagement are listed below:

- PTO
- School Accountability
- Parent Engagement Gathering
- Family Engagement Events
- School Board attendance
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Classroom Volunteers

Research has demonstrated that parent engagement plays a significant role In the educational success of a child. At Battle Rock, our data collection demonstrated a significant difference In achievement based on Involvement.



We are pleased to share that we had 100% of our parents involved in parent-teacher conferences this spring and significant attendance at each of our family engagement events. This year Battle Rock hosted 11 family engagement events averaging an estimated attendance of 115 participants at each event. We are grateful for the dedication and support of our families!

# MAJOR IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES



Through our work writing the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), we have identified several improvement strategies to address areas of concern. As always, we prioritize academic growth and learning and set goals to improve our model and instruction. In addition, we set goals regarding parent engagement, as mentioned previously, and finally, we have set goals to improve our evaluation system for staff. The goals and our progress can be seen below.

- **Goal:** By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, all staff will have had adequate access to external coaches. This will be measured through staff surveys.
  - **Evidence:** Battle Rock Leadership has identified several areas of significant need for the 2023-24 school year. Managing behavior has been a prevalent concern since the Pandemic in educational settings, and Battle Rock has not been exempt. During the 2023-24 school year, we have received monthly, in-person coaching in Restorative Practices with our mentor, Luke Yoder from Elevated Dialogue. Luke has provided our team with several professional development days this year.
  - Additionally, we are seeing an increase in our neuro-diverse population. We are blessed to work closely with an autism specialist and have received weekly, in-person coaching sessions and professional learning with Jaclyn Archibeque. In addition, several staff members have opted to participate in trainings focused on students with autism. We will continue this work and professional learning In the 2024-25 school year.
- **Goal:** By the end of October 2023, all staff will have completed a self-evaluation, and the Leadership Team will have reviewed all self-evaluations and built a calendar for fall and winter feedback cycles.
  - **Evidence:** We are currently In the process of aligning our evaluation system for staff, with that of students. Feedback Is an important tool for growth and we want to ensure that our evaluation process encourages growth and continuous learning for our staff members.



# PLAYSCAPE



Through the support of the Colorado Health Foundation, Battle Rock was able to design and construct a new and improved playground. This effort to improve the playground has been ongoing. Realizing that the exterior campus is the first thing parents see when visiting, we have prioritized creating an inviting, safe space that blends into our surrounding landscape. We are pleased with the nearly completed project. With the talents of Linda Robinson Studio Inc, Legacy Tree Solutions, Hicks Stone Masonry and Supply, A to Z Recreation, and ID Sculpture, we have brought our dreams to fruition. We hope you will stop by to see this beautiful transformation.



# EVALUATION PROCESS

We strive to ensure that our evaluation system is authentic and honors the unique individual and their growth. While standardized tests are a required tool that is used at Battle Rock, we aim to ensure balance through narrative report cards, face-to-face conferences, and the use of continuums

We appreciate parents' feedback regarding our student achievement and intervention communication. While we are very clear that we do not align with the one-size-fits-all approach to education, we carefully follow each child's progress and monitor the wide range of expected development, monitoring for signs of struggle. Too often, in a traditional system, children are compared to a benchmark set by policymakers without regard to child development. This methodology has the unfortunate consequence of many students and parents adopting a deficit mindset regarding ability. Through our combined decades of experience, we realize that each child has a unique timeline for skills mastery, and we work hard to encourage a growth mindset and focus on the ability while also providing the necessary level of support based on data. Through this supportive lens, we have sometimes neglected to communicate interventions provided to students. While our system of intervention referral is described later in this report, we are working to improve our parent communication artifacts to balance the growth mentality while informing our parents where their children are performing with explicit data.

## 2024-25 IMPROVEMENTS

### STUDENTS

#### NARRATIVE REPORT CARDS

##### WINTER

We love our narrative report cards and the ability to provide individualized descriptions of growth, mastery and areas for improvement. We believe this authentic report is more valuable than a traditional report card.

#### BRCS POWER STANDARDS

##### SPRING

We have created a list of Power Standards, based on Colorado standards, that will be unique for each classroom. These power standards will communicate what can be expected to be covered in each classroom, as well space to include individual data

### STAFF

#### SELF EVALUATION

##### FALL

Our self evaluation tool is based on our mission and vision and encourage staff to reflect on progress, set goals and remain accountable to the core principals of Battle Rock.

#### CLASSROOM OBSERVATION

##### FALL/SPRING

Each teacher will be observed within the classroom twice each year. This observation may be done by a board member or Master's level teacher. Feedback will be provided using the evaluation tool.

#### BOARD EVALUATION OF LEADERSHIP

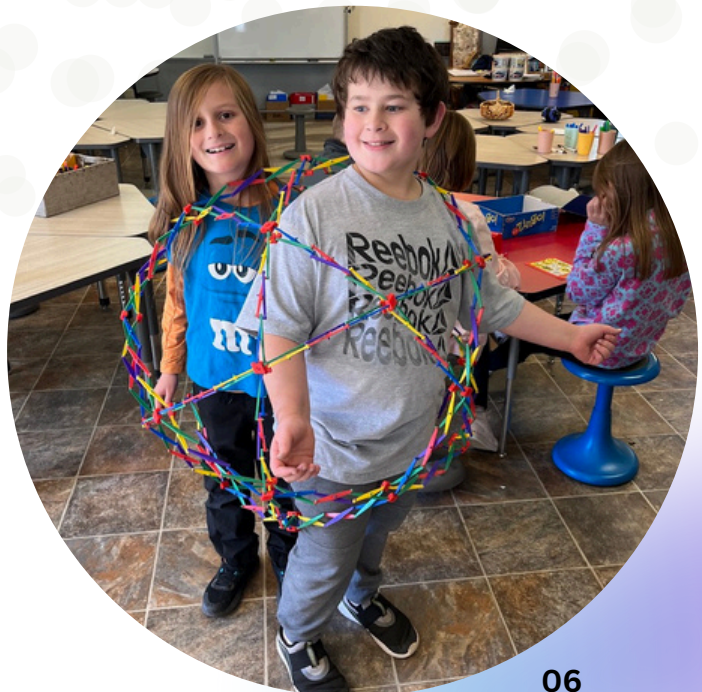
##### SUMMER

#### EVALUATION SUPPORT MEETING

##### WINTER/SPRING

Staff will meet with members of the leadership team to review successes and challenges of the school year.

Utilizing the Leadership evaluation tool, BRCS school board will evaluate the efforts of the leadership team





# ACADEMIC GROWTH

Approaching  
Goal

## Reading Achievement

In Spring of 2024, local iREADY ELA Achievement for students in grades 2-6 will have at least 75% of students scoring at the 26th percentile or above. For students in grades K-2, at least 45% will be scoring at the 26th percentile or above on the iREADY Spring Benchmark.

71% OF OUR GRADES 2-6 STUDENTS SCORED ABOVE THE 26TH PERCENTILE IN MAY 2024

74% OF OUR K-2 STUDENTS SCORED ABOVE THE 26TH PERCENTILE AS MEASURED BY THE IREADY SPRING BENCHMARK

Goal  
achieved

## Read Plans

30% of Students identified in the fall of 2023 with a Significant Reading Deficiency (SRD) will transition off of READ plans by spring 2024.

38% OF OUR STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A SIGNIFICANT READING DEFICIENCY WERE EXITED OFF READ PLANS IN MAY OF 2024 DUE TO IMPROVED SCORES

Goal  
achieved

## Math Achievement

In Spring of 2024, local iREADY Math Achievement for students in grades 2-6 will have at least 65% of students scoring at the 26th percentile or above. For students in grades K-2, at least 60% will be scoring at the 26th percentile or above for iREADY Math Achievement.

66% OF OUR STUDENTS GRADES 2-6 SCORED ABOVE THE 26TH PERCENTILE AS MEASURED BY THE SPRING IREADY ASSESSMENT.

74% OF OUR STUDENTS GRADES K-2 STUDENTS SCORED ABOVE THE 26TH PERCENTILE AS MEASURED BY THE IREADY SPRING ASSESSMENT

Goal  
achieved

## Math Growth

The overall median student growth percentile in 2nd-6th grade math will be at or above the 45th percentile for the 2023-2024 school year.

OUR MEDIAN GROWTH PERCENTILE IN GRADES 2-6 WAS FOR MATH WAS 150% FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR.



# INTERVENTION

Unique to Battle Rock is our embedded intervention strategy to address academic support for all students. In 2019, we began training all staff members in the Orton Gillingham Method of reading. This research-based phonics program was designed specifically with students with dyslexia in mind. As educators, we have found that this methodology is very effective instruction for all students. All students in the Juniper classroom receive small group Orton Gillingham instruction daily. As measured by our benchmark assessment, students in Pinon falling below the 25th percentile in reading receive small group Orton Gillingham instruction in the classroom each day. Generally, students who have been enrolled in Battle Rock for K-4 education who continue to fall below the 10th percentile in reading are considered potential candidates for special education services. Students falling below the 10th percentile receive one-on-one or small group intervention outside of the classroom, and data is collected to determine whether the student is eligible for special education services. Students not qualifying for special education services but continuing to fall below the 25th percentile receive small group intervention in the area of need. We continue to investigate potential math intervention programs similar to Orton Gillingham. However, we have chosen a math curriculum that provides a robust conceptual understanding of mathematics using hands-on methods. The methodology of Math U See employs research-based methods such as explicit instruction, visual representation, and tiered instruction. Students are assessed at the beginning of the school year and placed at the math level based on the assessment results. Students can work independently and excel at their own pace. Often, students help one another, which helps to solidify learning.





# GRANTS

## School Security Grant

Our district included us in a security grant that has paid for all new fencing and gates on campus. Wallace Fencing did a beautiful job, and our campus has never felt so secure! The remainder of our grant funds will go towards replacing any exterior doors that need replacing.

**TOTAL GRANT  
AMOUNT:**  
**\$ 71,250**

## ESSER III

2023-2024 was the last year to spend down the emergency grant funding provided by ESSER III. We used our remaining dollars primarily to pay a teacher's salary and to build our new library. Our library is providing much needed space for interventions, specials, and enrichment to encourage the love of reading in all our students.

**TOTAL GRANT  
AMOUNT:**  
**\$ 340,656**

## Stronger Connections Grant

This year we were awarded a two year grant to build community connections. This grant is paying for our Restorative Justice Coordinator's salary and benefits, stipends for staff for extra duties, training for staff, and supplies and babysitting for our community events.

**TOTAL GRANT  
AMOUNT:**  
**\$ 199,606**

## EASI (Empowering Action for School Improvement)

In the second year of our three year EASI Grant, we continue to do our work to build continual improvement into our model. We have focused on developing a data-driven decision making culture, building strong relationships, and ensuring that all our staff receives appropriate, high quality training to give them the tools they need to succeed.

**TOTAL GRANT  
AMOUNT:**  
**\$ 150,000**

### Additional Grants:

- **C-Shares: \$51,000**

Autism coaching, salary and benefits for paraprofessional with training working with Autistic students, and furniture and supplies to support those students.

- **Restorative Justice Grant: \$60,000**

Restorative Justice Training and Coaching with Luke Yoder and supplies to support implementation.



# ACTION STEPS FOR 2024-25



Professional  
Development



Improved  
evaluation  
process

Curriculum



Math Coaching



Each year our staff gathers for several days in a remote location to process and reflect on the previous school year and set goals for the upcoming year. This year, our staff identified several areas for focus in the coming year.

- Prioritize Professional Development focused on trauma-informed practices
- Establish a partnership with the Developing Mathematical Thinking Institute to receive professional development and coaching to improve our multi-age math instruction
- Refine curriculum based on data-determined areas of need
- Improve staff-evaluation process

We are confident that these areas of focus will improve the quality of education we can provide at Battle Rock.



# STRATEGIC PLANNING



## ➤ Facilities Improvement

Our infrastructure must be consistent with our mission. To maintain this, we have developed three primary goals:

- Create a phased master development plan for physical infrastructure.
- Develop board capacity and establish/grow donor community partnerships to realize the master development plan.
- Partner with the Wallace family to develop a land management plan for future student-centered infrastructure improvements.

## ➤ Curriculum & Instruction

We want to be intentional about how our curriculum and instructional practices reflect our mission and vision and ensure meaningful student learning experiences. To do this, we have developed three major goals that we hope to accomplish by the end of the 2027-2028 school year:

- Develop a scope and sequence for each subject area and grade band.
- Identify Power Standards for each subject area and grade bands and include them in scope and sequences.
- Develop a system to incorporate four fully integrated project-based learning projects, demonstrated by one fully integrated project per quarter.



# THANK YOU

Battle Rock depends on the generosity of donors like you. While we receive public funding, the relatively small size of our student population limits the amount of state and federal funding available. Donations and grants allow us to continue to improve our facilities, support our staff and students, and maintain the unique programming that is Battle Rock.

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## THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS PROVIDED SUPPORT IN THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR:

**CLARK & CHAPIN ARCHITECTS**  
**SOUTHWEST DONUTS**  
**ZU GALLERY**  
**LOOPS COFFEE**  
**COLORADO HEALTH**  
**LOR FOUNDATION**  
**RP ALLIANCE FUND**  
**CORTEZ CULTURAL CENTER**

**GRACE CHURCH**  
**MONA MAKES**  
**MCHS THEATER DEPARTMENT**  
**GABI MOREY**  
**ERIN KONING**  
**MATT CLARK**  
**ABUNDANT LIFE**  
**THE MAYNARD FAMILY**

**ERIN PINNEY**  
**JENNIFER SMITH**  
**KATHY CONNER**  
**REBEKAH SMITH**  
**LESLIE MICHELLE**  
**KELLY PLACE**  
**HIGH DESERT LIFE**



# Battle Rock Charter School



**CONTACT US FOR  
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