

Battle Rock Charter School

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



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Prepared by :

**Battle Rock Charter School
Leadership Team**

August 2023

Another year in the books



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Dear Stakeholders,

With the close of the 2022-2023 school year, our first 'normal' year post-pandemic, we were amazed to reflect on all that occurred. While, in many ways, it was an exceptionally challenging year, there is also so much to celebrate. The challenges we faced have highlighted the strength and grit of our team. We received unprecedented support from our partner organizations that will allow for expanded programming and much needed facility upgrades. We are grateful for the support and Involvement of our families. We are blessed to work with amazing children each step of the way.

This report is the first of what we hope will become an annual tradition to communicate with you, our families, our community supporters, and our neighbors the challenges, successes, and next steps for the upcoming year.

In gratitude,

The Battle Rock Leadership Team



Vision & Mission

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.

We value and commit to honoring each individual's story and insist that each member's presence is necessary and important to enhance our learning community.

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.





Major Improvement Strategies

Unified Improvement Planning

At the beginning of 2022-2023, Battle Rock Leadership, in partnership with our SAC and Board, selected two new major improvement strategies. These strategies are research-based and are designed to address what we've identified as the root causes of our most pressing challenges. Adopting these strategies ensures that we are aligning our actions with our goals.

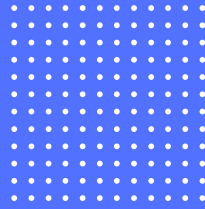
Family, School, and Community Partnerships

We aspire to welcome all families into our school community, to communicate effectively, to support student success, to speak up for every child, to share power within our school, and to collaborate with our community. Research shows that when schools effectively partner with families and their community, student success follows. We focused in 2022-2023 on partnering to review our family handbook, to create educational opportunities out in our larger community, and through our playscape planning process.

Coaching

We are focused on creating partnerships between teachers and experts that is focused on improving teacher performance. Many times that means utilizing the expertise of our staff, other times we are partnering with outside experts. In 2022-2023, we worked with Dr. Sandra Stone, professor emeritus from Northern Arizona University and international Multi-Age Consultant, and Luke Yoder, from Elevated Dialogue, a highly skilled Restorative Practice Consultant.

Parental Involvement



PTO/SAC

We would not have had so many successful events without our PTO this year! Parent volunteers hosted our annual community carnival in September, provided turkeys for our annual Harvest Dinner, provided supplies and hands in the building of both the Homecoming and the Parade of Lights Floats, prepared a teacher appreciation luncheon, and hosted our annual Scholastic Book Fair and Annual Stick Horse Rodeo. We are so grateful for these hard-working parents who are dedicated to our families, staff, and students.



Volunteers

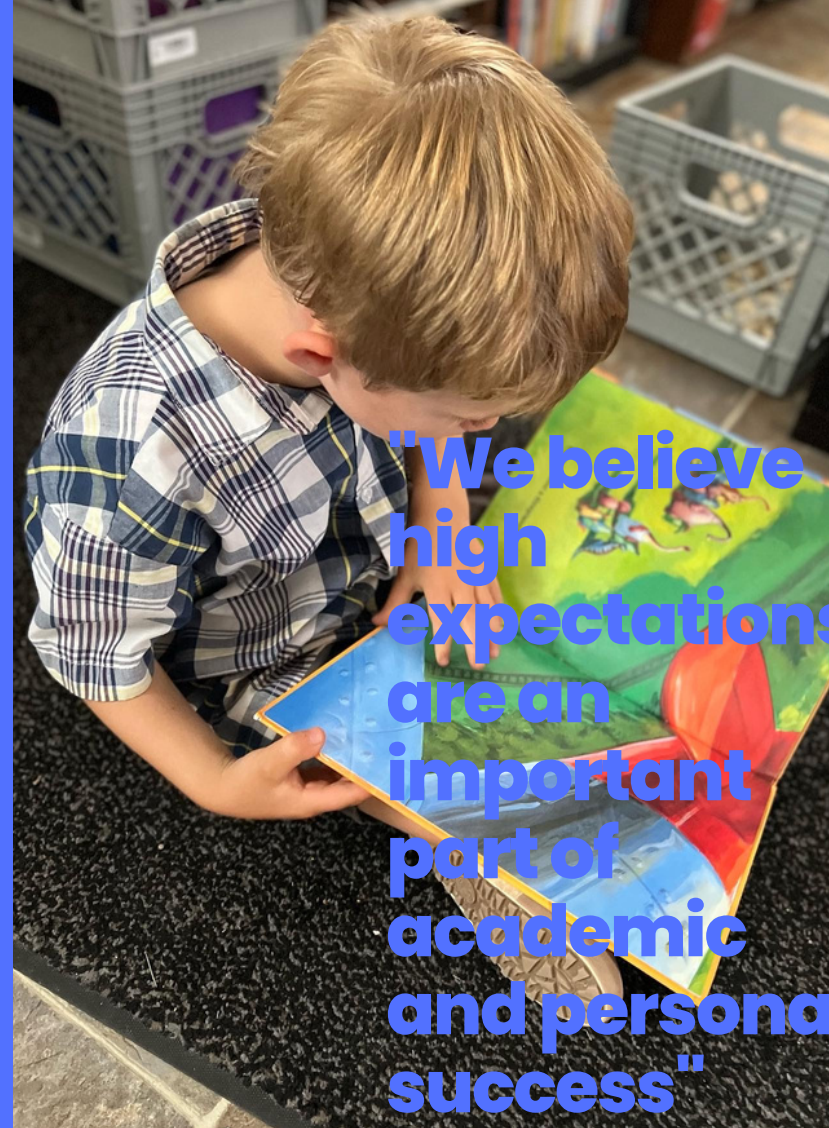
In addition to our PTO and SAC, we also have a number of parents who volunteered to chaperone our many field trips, supported classroom parties, served on our school board, and hosted our first annual family dance. As we look through the monthly opportunities for families to be involved in our community, we recognize that these events would not be possible without these parents.



Parent Feedback

We strive to gather parent feedback from our families and use this information to improve. This year, our parent surveys provided areas where we are doing well and some places to improve. Based on parent feedback, we do well in creating a welcoming environment, engaging students in learning, and establishing an "open door policy for parents.

95% of our parents stated that they definitely felt comfortable contacting their teachers; **97% of our parents said their children love attending Battle Rock**; 94.6% of our parents said their children feel tremendous or quite a bit of belonging; and 100% of our families said that the lessons taught at Battle Rock were quite or extremely motivating for their students.



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

Areas to Improve

Restorative practice, our conflict resolution model, is one area parents felt needed improvement. We have been awarded two grants to support this growth. One will allow us to continue our work with Luke Yoder from Elevated Dialogue, in addition to building a Restorative Practice Library, and supporting community education nights. The other will allow us to hire a Restorative Practice Coordinator who will also provide Family and Community Engagement Support. We will track our improvement through student, family and staff surveys as well as through tracking student behavior.

87% of our parents felt that Battle Rock was preparing their child quite well or extremely well for the next academic year. The other 13% responded that Battle Rock prepared their child only slightly well. This feedback informs us that our families need more reassurance that their child is being prepared for academic advancement or would like to see more rigor. We are adjusting our staffing model to ensure that students are receiving more support in the areas they most need it, with rotating teachers providing specialized instruction and intervention and increased in-classroom exceptional student support.

89.5% of our families felt Quest was quite or extremely valuable, whereas 10.5% of our families felt Quest was somewhat valuable or not valuable at all. Staff is working hard to ensure that all families find Quest to be a valuable enrichment experience for their child's education. 2023-2024 will see Quest staffing structure changes and new offerings for students to explore their interests, including foreign languages.

ACADEMIC GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT

Percentage of students grades 3-6 reading at grade level	71%
Percentage of students grades 3-6 math at grade level	36%
Average growth In Reading	36%
Average growth In Math	47%

Kindergarten, first, second and third grades demonstrated less than 40% growth from fall to spring. Grades fourth through sixth demonstrated an average of 46%. Poor attendance was a clear contributing factor to these results. Students in kindergarten, first, and second grades attended less than 90% of our total school days on average. In addition, we experienced significant disruption in our staffing for Juniper and Pinion classrooms' (grades K-4) Orton-Gillingham (reading) intervention, which also directly impacted growth scores. Despite those factors, **we did reach our goals set for reading and math in our Unified Improvement Plan.**

Considering the data, we will be making adjustments to continue to better meet the needs of our students and to ensure that we continue to hit our performance targets. We have changed our intervention services to ensure that all students receive more consistent phonics instruction. In addition, we have adjusted staffing to provide additional intervention support in all classrooms. Finally, recognizing that attendance plays a significant role in academic growth, we have revised our attendance policy with the intent to clarify expectations and increase attendance.



Exciting updates



New Library

We are excited to have broken ground on our new library this summer. With our federal ESSER III grant (emergency COVID funding), a grant from the Gates Family Foundation, and support from generous donors, we have contracted with TimberAge Systems Inc to build a new and sustainable building. This beautiful structure was designed by a parent and Battle Rock graduate, Matt Clark and his business partner Dustin Chapin. We are excited about the possibilities this space will bring for our students, families, and community.

Playscape

In addition to the preparation and planning for this library space, Battle Rock has been engaging in the planning process for a new playscape. Supported by Colorado Health Foundation, staff, students, and community members have been gathering and providing feedback to design a beautiful space that would enhance our campus and invite our local community to enjoy our facilities during off hours. We have applied for the second part of the grant, which would allow us to make these plans a reality. We will know this fall if our grant proposal is approved.

Water at Battle Rock

This summer, we have installed two cisterns to provide clean drinking water to all of our buildings. By the end of August an outdoor water fountain with a bottle filling station will be installed on our playground helping students and visitors to our campus to stay hydrated. These projects were made possible by a generous grant by the LOR Foundation.

Safety at Battle Rock

In partnership with our district, we have been awarded funds for all new fencing around our school campus and new doors that will allow for keyless entry. Our fencing project is slated to be completed this August/September. A big thanks to our district for including us in this grant!

Other Accomplishments in 2022-2023

Battle Rock Goes to Denver!

Last year we officially embraced our model as a place-based program and are proud of our Cliffrose classroom, who engaged in a Geo-Inquiry project focused on McElmo Canyon. After several months of study, our students traveled to Denver, Colorado, to present their project to teachers at the state Social Studies Conference.

Destination Imagination

This was our first year participating in Destination Imagination, entering two teams in our regional competition. **Both teams earned first place at regionals and moved on to place at the state level in Denver.**

Grants

Battle Rock Is committed to capping our enrollment at 90 full-time students, which limits the amount of funding we can receive from the state. As a result, donors and grants provide needed financing for expanding services and facility Improvements. We are pleased to share some of the grants we received this past year:

- ELO-\$110,000 to support summer school and summer camp.
- Colorado Health Foundation -\$25,000 playscape planning grant
- LOR Foundation-\$10,000 for the Garden project
- LOR Foundation-\$29,000 for Cistern
- RP Alliance Fund-\$60,000 for Restorative Practice Implementation
- EASI - \$150,000 over three years for school improvement, focusing on improving math instruction.
- Stronger Connections Grant - \$199,606 over two years for strengthening relationships with students and families.



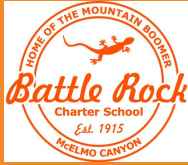


Summer Opportunities

Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant (ELO)

Battle Rock was awarded an ELO grant through the Colorado Department of Education. This funding provided tutoring for our students throughout the summer months and allowed us to revive the Children's Chautauqua, Battle Rock's arts camp. Chautauqua's production of Tillie the Teller was a great success! We have funding for summer 2024 and are looking forward to another great season!





BATTLE ROCK CHARTER SCHOOL

Shared Leadership



Karen Casgrain

Business and Finance



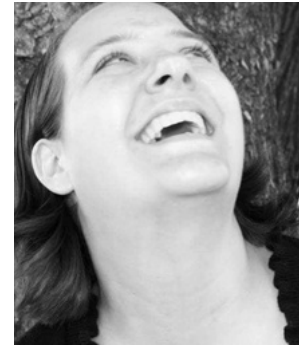
Paula Fury

*Teaching, Food Service
and Transportation*



Moqui Mustain-Fury

Teaching and Quest



Emily Lansing

*Teaching and
Technology*



Tegan Lewis

Special Services



Jenn Morris

Teaching and Gifted



Sandra Sam

*Intervention and
Administration*

Battle Rock has worked hard to create a shared leadership structure for nine years. This style of leadership, while unconventional, ensures that as Battle Rock staff transition, our model will remain the same. Through this structure, staff share leadership responsibilities in addition to their role on campus. We have found that this model provides agency and buy-in and supports teacher retention.



Thank you

We are grateful for the generous donations from our community supporters.

We would like to thank:

- Marcia P. Heidenreich & Duane O. Heidenreich
- Eli Tomac
- Colorado Health Foundation
- LOR Foundation
- Gates Family Foundation
- Onward Foundation
- James Fairley
- VFW Post 5231 Auxiliary, Justine Bayles, Christina Turner American Endowment Foundation, Jeff Albright, and Ella Griffin

Get in touch with us!



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