

The South Nodaway R-IV School District is dedicated to the mission that all students acquire the skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary for full participation in a changing society by seeing that every child has access to appropriate and meaningful learning opportunities. “What is best for our students?” has been the mantra that influences all decisions made in curriculum, scheduling, purchases, hiring, policies, and more. The school district and community work together to provide our students the best there is in every aspect of the learning environment.

South Nodaway Elementary is a small, rural school located in Guilford, Missouri, that serves 108 students in preschool through sixth grade. Our junior high and high school is located five miles west in the town of Barnard. Our single level elementary was built in 1936 and has had two additions built on to it; one which was built with volunteer help from the community. We have an expansive playground that has a corn field bordering it to the north. Our Outdoor Classroom borders our property to the east. The Outdoor Classroom became a reality through the help of the Department of Conservation and the hard work of the elementary students, staff, and several community members.

Technology has been the focus of our building for the past few years. We have twenty computers in a lab for all students to use. Our kindergarten and first grade classrooms have Inter-write School Boards in their classrooms. Second grade through sixth grade classrooms have mounted Promethean Interactive boards in each of their classrooms.

Promoting and demonstrating good character is “The Longhorn Way”. We demonstrate and take pride in the values in which our country was founded. These values include a dedication to home, school, community, and country. We strive to instill in our students a strong work ethic, responsibility, respect, and a culture of character. Our district is a founding member of the Northwest Missouri Regional Culture of Character. This is a collaborative group of schools, businesses, industries, families, and communities whose primary focus is to promote character development. Our school and community relationship is vital to the educational success of our children.

The school is known for its excellence in academics. The school board, administrators, teachers, and parents all have high expectations when it comes to student performance, and it shows in our accomplishments. The elementary has had 100% participation during our parent/teacher conferences for the past five years.

Curriculum changes, learning styles, teaching styles, and professional development are all influenced by data. The South Nodaway staff focuses on individual student learning as well as grade level expectations. Active teaching and learning styles are used to help students understand curriculum and master concepts. Professional development and collaboration is conducted at all levels within the building and the district.