

## Teasley Middle School

August 2014, Teasley Middle School (TMS), opened a brand new, state-of-the-art facility on Hickory Log Drive in the city of Canton. TMS prides itself as a school that has served the community of the northern Cherokee County area since 1986. When originally built 28 years ago, Teasley Middle served the students who resided in the city of Canton as well as the rural areas that surrounded the city limits to the north, west and east of the city. With the growth that our school district has experienced in the last 5 -10 years, we now welcome students from five K-5 elementary schools into our 6-8 program; this reflects a steep increase in both population as well as diversity of that same population.

Teasley Middle School was named for the educator who donated the land for our original school, Marie Archer Teasley. Originally built to house 650 students, the school soon became overcrowded and portable classrooms were added. In 1990, the hallways were extended, increasing the school's capacity to 950 students. In 2014 a brand new state of the art facility was built to accommodate a true middle school model with 1400 students.

Our school serves sixth, seventh and eighth grade using the middle school concept of teaming and the exploratory nature of the middle school student through connections classes. Our current population is **1397** students: **643 (46%)** females and **754 (54%)** males of which **465 (33.3%)** students are sixth, **482 (34.5%)** are seventh and **450 (32.2%)** are eighth. The community of students that Teasley Middle School serves is diverse in race, ethnicity and economically. The Teasley Middle School attendance zone includes numerous apartment complexes, rental properties, privately-owned homes, family violence center, a state-operated home/shelter for girls (Angel House), and a state financed home for boys (Goshen Valley Boys' Ranch). Teasley Middle School serves accelerated, gifted, advanced, on-level, at-risk and special education students through a wide variety of programs including the following: Remedial Education Program (REP), Gifted, Accelerated and High Achiever Advanced Content Classes, High School Credit Classes, Title I Program, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Special Education.

Teasley Middle School is the only Title I middle school in the Cherokee County School District. Currently, **53%** of the student population receives federal assistance through the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Also, Teasley Middle School is the only middle school that has three of the five feeder schools that are designated as Title I schools. Title I funds are used to offer a variety of educational programs and resources to meet the needs of all students.

All teachers at Teasley Middle School are both certified and highly qualified. 98% of content area teachers are gifted endorsed. 100% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and science teachers are high school certified. 100% of the staff will be SIOP trained by November 2014. There are currently four sixth, seventh and eighth grade councils with four to five teachers on each council. The councils consist of a regular education teacher in each of the following areas: Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social

Studies. In addition, each council has either a Special Education or ESOL teacher working in conjunction with academic subject area teachers.