

Drumright Rotary Hosts Raydene Walker of Sapulpa Alternative School

Rotarian, Linda Crane, introduced guest, Raydene Walker at Friday's Drumright Rotary Club Meeting. Ms. Walker is with the Alternative School in Sapulpa. She has been involved in education for forty-two years and has been with Bartlett Academy for the last twelve years.

Oklahoma mandates that each school district have an alternative program, according to Ms. Walker. Some schools' alternative programs are after school programs, pull out programs or self contained in the school for some examples. School districts decide what fits their particular circumstances to make the alternative program effective.

Bartlett Academy is Monday through Friday from 7:55 a.m. until 2:55 p.m. There are five teachers and learning facilitators at Bartlett meaning that they all wear different hats. In addition to her classroom, Ms. Walker is also the counselor and Assistant Principal.



Pictured L to R: Raydene Walker, Linda Crane

"Many students that attend an Alternative School are highly intelligent, but they learn differently", says Ms. Walker. Bartlett has students that have Attention Deficit Disorder, students that were bored in regular classes and became trouble makers, teen parents, students that have had issues with drugs and alcohol – really just a variety of students that deserve a chance.

One benefit of an alternative program is the curriculum can be adjusted to fit the circumstances. The State requirements must still be taught, but subjects can be included to a corresponding course. For example, the administrators, at Bartlett, decided a Personal Finance class was necessary. Even though Bartlett has students that go on to take college courses, the majority leaves there and goes into the work force immediately after graduation. Knowing about bank accounts, contracts, and other financial information like renting housing will set these young adults on a more stable ground to succeed.

Of course Bartlett has to follow the basic curriculum set by the State of Oklahoma and any graduating seniors must complete four English, three math, three social studies and one fine arts class plus electives before receiving their diploma.

Ms. Walker said "We treat the whole child", meaning students are not punished for their circumstances. For example, students with ADD have times when they get to walk around for a few minutes before going back to work on their school work. This provides them a greater ability to focus and a larger chance for success. Bartlett Academy has incorporated several other practices to accommodate the different situations of their students.

Bartlett Academy's primary goal is to help the students focus and achieve. And they are doing just that. Last spring Bartlett had twenty-six eligible to graduate and graduated twenty-one. The majority of the graduates have kept in touch with the administrators over the years also. Bartlett Academy in Sapulpa isn't just a classroom – it's a second or even third chance at success.

Our guests included Sue McQuillen of Shopper's Edge in Enid, DeAnna Ukena of CREOKS in Stroud, and Don Quinn of Don's Classic Cars in Drumright.

Please join us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Jane Frazier.

If you are interested in becoming involved in Drumright Rotary Club, or if your high school child(ren) would like to be a involved in our Rotary Interact Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club or go to our website www.wix.com/drumrightrotary/drumrightrotary.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian