

Carbondale Attendance Center/Santa Fe Trail Junior High School
315 N. Fourth Street – Carbondale, KS 66414 - 785-836-7188

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent
From: Mr. Michael Flax, CAC/SFTJH Principal
Re: September BOE Report
Date: 6 Sept. 2013

Enrollment – At this time we have 291 students on our enrollment count. We will add a student this Friday, but he hasn't been added to Power School at this time. I believe we will also be bringing at least two students back at or near the end of September. As per usual, some students are still shifting in and out of school. This occurs yearly, with families still moving and getting settled. That does have an effect on students, and we do our best to catch them up to speed on what we have covered before they arrived. The grade breakdown, according to Power School, is: 5th grade = 77; 6th grade = 72; 7th grade = 72; 8th grade = 70. Until students are formally withdrawn from here and enrolled somewhere else they remain on the student data system.

FASTLANE – The FAST LANE program has taken on new life again this year. Ashley Sitz is the director, and is excited about the move to the mobile unit on the west end of the building. At this time 44 students participate in the program in some form. Three are morning only enrollees, and 41 attend after school either full or part-time. Parents have shown great appreciation to the district for the continuation of this program. I also tell them that Ashley Sitz and Dr. Pegram are the responsible parties, as their organization and motivation are the reasons we have kept the program alive.

Activities – Activities are fully underway. The cross country, football, and volleyball teams have all competed this week. Cross country has 10 (as of today) junior high students running, and they have competed at Anderson County. Results were good, as six of eight junior high runners medaled. 8th grader Hannah Honeyman took first place, with a finish that was ten seconds better than any other athlete there, male or female. Next week SFTHS is hosting a meet where our junior high athletes will participate. There are currently 15 eighth grade students and 20 seventh grade boys participating in football. They have competed once so far at Holton, and will host Jeff West next week. For the first time in my memory, SFTJH defeated Holton in both the seventh and eighth grade games this week. Both victories were by 2 points. 28 eighth grade and 17 seventh grade girls are playing volleyball this season. The girls got a taste of the competition they will be facing in the new league, as we traveled to Wellsville this week. They found the competition to be stiff, losing both A-team matches to Wellsville. They have competed twice so far, with two matches on Monday of next week. StuCo candidate speeches are scheduled for next Thursday with elections being held the third week of September. Mrs. Tina McIver is the sponsor again this year.

Safety Drills – We are required to have a fire drill each month during the school year and at least three tornado drills. We have already had a fire drill and a tornado drill. Next week we will have our September fire drill. We have made sure to incorporate other safety measures in regards to several kinds of other crisis situations. To that end, we have already had a lock-down drill and are planning an evacuation drill for next week. This year we have changed the location of our

evacuation site. Derrick Feliciano, our resource officer, and I reviewed and revised the building crisis plan this past summer. He determined that the football field north and west of the school is as safe a site as any other if we need to get out of the building. We will keep the local church as a secondary evacuation site in case we have to evacuate in inclement weather. The plan has been established, and teachers have been informed of the change. This kind of drill has been, and will be again, addressed with students before we practice it. We work with local and county law enforcement in creating our crisis action plans, and they will participate in the drills. I say this often, but it bears repeating: I take student and staff safety very seriously. We will do everything we can to ensure a safe and non-threatening environment here, as well as providing a solid academic program for all.

Pre-Service Week – The four days of in-service before we begin the school year were very full. Outside of the general back-to-school staff meeting, we had several meetings to get us started. One of the activities that we do at CAC/SFTJH is a transition meeting with general education teachers, special education staff, counselors, and the school psychologist to discuss individual student needs. The purpose of the meetings is to make all necessary staff aware of students who are receiving IEP services, have been referred by the STAT team, have medical needs, etc. We also take time to analyze data from the previous years on the current students. That helps teachers make plans that accommodate individual student and whole class needs. These in-service days are well-received by the staff and we continue to plan valuable activities to help us plan and coordinate learning activities from which our students benefit. With the additional information on BYOC, the new evaluation system, and the implementation of the Marzano strategies for classroom instruction both teachers and administrators are very busy attending to the details. It has been a busy start to the school year.

New Staff – Lots of new faces are seen at CAC this fall. We have one new certified teacher in the building this year. Mr. Josh Cauthon has joined us as the seventh grade language arts teacher. He is an SFT graduate, and the staff and students are taking well to him. Additionally, Ms. Rachel Stover, who was our ½ time at-risk reading teacher, has begun full-time with us. The second half of her day is teaching special education at the junior high level. Mrs. Melissa Rickford is back to CAC as the speech and language teacher. We have added a new para, Mrs. Bobbie Allison has joined the staff. The fresh new face at the front desk is Mrs. Angie Mercer. She also takes care of the breakfast and lunch check-off each day.

Submitted by Michael Flax