



# Scranton Attendance Center

## Board of Education Report

### October 2013

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent  
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal  
Date: 3 October 2013  
Re: October BOE Report

The following is a summary of the activities and news at the Scranton Attendance Center for the month of September, as well as a look ahead to events during the month of October.

#### **Homecoming Week a Success**

SAC students enjoyed a full week of spirit festivities in honor of Santa Fe Trails Homecoming the week of September 27. Students participated in spirit days by wearing different themes each day, and the whole school traveled to Carbondale on Friday to attend the parade and pep rally. Staff and students alike enjoyed the community atmosphere and positive spirit. We found the entire week to be one supporting Charger pride and unity.

#### **Grandparent Day**

SAC welcomed grandparents and other visitors to our 3rd-grade classrooms on September 20. To connect with students' reading unit on changes, visitors shared how their lives in third grade are different than our third graders' experiences. Visitors also shared a delicious lunch of chicken and noodles, as well as spent some time in our classrooms listening to one of the students' favorite stories. We had 67 visitors join us for the event.

#### **Recognition Programs**

As part of our building goal to "empower and encourage students to create and maintain a safe and supportive school and community environment," we have established several recognition programs. We have a Charger Character Counts wall that shows off the pictures of students who exhibited one or more of the character traits studied during their guidance time. Staff acknowledge this character with a certificate and announcement. We are also utilizing "Positive Office Referrals" to catch students being good and establish that positive atmosphere surrounding behavior. We also plan to hold quarterly recognition events to reward students for their efforts and success during that quarter.

#### **SAC Academically Productive Policy**

To help keep a focus on learning and education in the classrooms, as well as establish clear and consistent expectations, we have instituted our Academically Productive Policy. This policy simply states that "To ensure a positive learning environment, no student will be allowed to continue to disrupt the learning opportunity of other students or the teacher's responsibility to teach." Teachers and students follow a set protocol when anyone breaks the policy, which includes leveled consequences and rewards. We hope this policy streamlines office referrals, rewards those with positive behaviors, and sets clear guidelines and consequences.

### **Professional Development**

To help accomplish some of our building and district goals for the year, we will be spending professional development time on technology, our new evaluation tool, Marzano's classroom strategies that work, and Build Your Own Curriculum. On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 teachers attended a Greenbush conference focusing on implementing technology into the classrooms, particularly with using iPads. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, we will reflect and discuss the second McRel standard, review the instructional strategy of cooperative learning, and continue our progress mapping our math curriculum. We also continue to utilize our grade-level collaboration time weekly to discuss school issues, curriculum specifics, and differentiation and individual student plans. We've added a separate SPED and Title collaboration session each week to continue to increase the communication between regular classroom and specialized instructors.

### **Fire/Tornado/Lockdown/Evacuation Drills**

We've practiced each of the above drills already this year. We continue to use our color-coding system to quickly determine the status of students during all of our crisis events, and we've begun utilizing safety buddies to increase speed and accountability. Students find their safety buddy, line up 2x2, and quickly exit to their safety location. Any time we evacuate the building, teachers take their crisis bags with them. These bags include a class roster, medical supplies, and our color charts. Once students are a safe distance from the building, teachers take roll and hold up the corresponding color to show others the attendance status of their class. If all students are currently present, teachers hold up a green card. If all students are present, but there are additional students in their group, the teacher holds up a yellow card. If a student is missing, a teacher holds up a red card. Designated staff then confirm those missing and extra students to be sure all students are accounted for and safe. We have used this system in our two monthly fire drills, and will do the same this month for our fire and evacuation drills.

### **Halloween Parties**

Once again, SAC will parade through our school and the Scranton community beginning at 8:30 on October 31. Students will continue festivities back at SAC until 10:30, at which time we will carry on with our normal instructional day. We welcome any visitors during this time, and have each check in at the office and wear a visitor's sticker.

### **P/T Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held at SAC on Monday, October 21 and Thursday, October 24. Teachers establish individual conference times with each parent, and plan to discuss achievement thus far during the year with a variety of data in support.