

## CARBONDALE ATTENDANCE CENTER / SANTA FE TRAIL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent  
From: Mr. Michael Flax, Principal  
Date: 30 September 2014  
Re: October BOE Report

Fundraisers – We have just completed sales for the Red Wheel fundraiser. The students did a great job of selling items, with a final total of almost 1000 items sold. The goal was to sell 1000 items, so we fell a bit short, but we were very close. One hundred students turned in orders and money, and we did receive several donations from parents who wished for their child to not participate. Yesterday with the assistance of a para, we completed the recording of sales and counted money. Our profit from these will be well over \$5000. We are just confirming a couple of orders before we can have an exact amount. The purpose of the fundraiser is to help pay for spring trips and activities for the students. With the loss of the use of the track last spring, we did not bring in gate and concession profits. I believe we will be able to finance trips this spring and next year as well from the proceeds of this fundraiser.

Activity Update – We are nearing the end of the volleyball season. The seventh and eighth grade teams will wrap it up this coming weekend at the league tournament in Osawatomie. Both teams have experienced success this year. The eighth grade team is coming off two very good wins in the last two weeks. On the football side of things, the eighth grade team remains undefeated this year. The seventh graders have made some progress, but wins are difficult to find. They will finish their seasons during the fourth week of October, with the new league's bowl format. Santa Fe Trail will host the two games of the bowl series on October 23. If the seventh grade team qualifies they will travel to Wellsville on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October for that series. Our cross country athletes continue to represent us well. Several students are placing at each meet, and most of the students are improving their personal best times along the way. Killian Spoonmore has won two of the races so far, and places near the top at each of the meets. It seems like the fall seasons just got started and we are preparing now for them to end.

Building Improvement Plan – In continuing our focus on the building improvement plan, I have met with two departments regarding their collaborative planning and the delivery of instruction at the same pace and material. The BYOC process is in full swing, and release time has been granted to any individual or group requesting time to complete their documents. I am including just below this a communication piece I added to my Parent Newsletter this month. In my attempt to be open and honest with parents I felt the need to address these with all parents, understanding that the message really needs to reach just several. It reads as follows:

*Communication – This item may sound a little defensive (not my intent) and may catch a few of you sensitively (again, not my intent). Over the past few weeks we have dealt with a number of issues among our students. And we understand that some of these might appear to be minor issues for some of you. However, because we are responsible for every student in the building, the actions of one or two students sometimes causes a bigger disruption than you consider. If we wouldn't allow the entire student body to behave in a certain manner we won't allow it for one or two. We will continue to address these issues, and know that the decisions will not always please some of you. Our focus will continue to be on the safety and academic needs of all students. To that end, we welcome discussion when you are not happy with our decisions. However, the staff and I will not continue those conversations if name-calling and threats are made. Mutual respect will have to be maintained on the phone and in person. I just wanted to communicate that to everyone. Thanks for continuing to advocate for your children. I appreciate that even when we don't agree on an issue.*

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Kansas City - This past summer, language arts teacher, Mrs. Allison Folger, approached me about an opportunity for the eighth grade students. We had been discussing curriculum and the

standards that are expected to be taught in junior high. Out of this she asked me if she could pursue a visit to Kansas City for her students. Tomorrow, October 1, the entire eighth grade class will be heading to the National Archives to visit a display on Nazi Propaganda. While this is a sensitive topic, the eighth grade language arts standards (which includes reading and writing) include how to identify propaganda and how it is utilized. Additionally, the language arts department has collaborated on their instruction which includes literature from that time in history, their own writing, and this study. I believe this is an amazing opportunity, and I am glad the teachers have advocated for the trip. All eighth grade students have been required to select and read a book along the themes taught by Mrs. Hug, Mr. Hug, Mrs. Folger, and Mrs. Mumford for this quarter.

Aspire – Well, we were scheduled to begin the Aspire testing on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. A difficulty on their end caused us to postpone the testing. We will begin testing on October 1 (today) and hope to conclude all testing within three weeks. The Aspire is broken into five subtests: Reading, math, writing, language usage and science. The students use one class period from each of those curricular areas to complete the tests. Additionally, we provide for an interest inventory for each student as well. In the early spring we will be meeting with each student and their parents to review the information we get from these tests. Those meetings will coincide with parent-teacher conferences, but will be scheduled at your convenience. I am hopeful we will get useful data from these Aspire tests.

Submitted by Michael Flax