

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent
From: Mr. Michael Flax, Principal
Date: 1 April 2015
Re: BOE Report

The following is a report of the activities and events at the Carbondale Attendance Center and Santa Fe Trail Junior High from March leading into April.

Activities Update –We have begun track practice, and things are going fairly well. At this time approximately 80 students participating either as athletes or as managers. Our first track meet is April 7 at Osawatomie. The art students from the junior and senior high schools are again combining forces for the Art Jubilee. It will be held on April 8 from 5:30-6:30 at the high school. This year's 8th grade and high school cooperative piece is "The Great Wave" by Katsushika Hokusai. This will hang in the high school after the arts show. Hokusai was an artist that the students studied a couple of years ago, and select students were able to have a private showing of his prints at the Spencer Museum of Art on the campus at KU. Additionally this year the high school functional art group will be showing their work. The art students are under the guidance of Mrs. Sally Riggs and Mrs. Doreen Seeley-Francis.

Eighth Grade Students – We are in contact with the parents of several eighth grade students who are at risk of not being promoted to the high school next year. A number of students are failing the majority of their core classes for the year. My guideline has always been that they must pass at the very least three of the five core classes on their schedule to be eligible for the high school. They will be offered the option of summer school this June at the high school to recover those credits. However, they would not be eligible to participate in the recognition ceremony and graduation trip at the end of the year. We also have a number of students with outstanding debt. Their parents have been notified of the requirement to have all district fees and debt paid in full before the day of the recognition ceremony.

Invitation – I would like to invite each of the BOE members to attend the 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony on Friday, May 8. It will begin at 7:00, and I promise this one will not last more than 90 minutes. (Just seeing if you are paying attention!) We will be offering the students the option of getting a picture taken before, as well as all students will pose for a picture with a BOE member while receiving their certificate. These will begin at 6:30 in the high school media center.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – The fifth and sixth grade teachers are preparing for parent-teacher conferences to be held the third week of April. I have encouraged parents towards a goal of 100% participation. We had almost that with the junior high conferences. I have given the teachers the approval to hold conferences on alternate dates if it better meets the needs and schedules of parents. But they are required to provide me with an exact schedule of conferences with their class rosters.

STAR BASE – Our fifth grade students are participating at Forbes Field again this year with the Star Base Program. This is a terrific science activity that covers five full days of work at Forbes Field. The last day is a rocket launch of rockets that the students build themselves over the course of the Star Base days. We appreciate the efforts of the Forbes Field personnel and our fifth grade teachers for making sure this is a successful event every year. I have expressed my thanks for all the parent volunteers and paraprofessionals who are attending with us. Thanks for continuing to support this great program for our fifth graders.

State Assessments – We have begun the state assessment process, and students have been actively testing for the past week and a half. We will be done with these by the end of April for the most part. I won't editorialize about my feelings towards these assessments, but each student will be engaged in at least 11

testing sessions when it is all said and done. Some grade levels have more sessions. Unfortunately the state will not be able to provide results for us until sometime this summer. We would like to use the data collected for teacher determination and adaptation of teaching, but I am not sure how useful the information will be during this first year of the revised state assessments.

District Transition Day – We will again participate in the district transition day on April 24. On that day the 4th grade students will come to our building to spend part of the morning becoming acclimated to the building. The fifth grade students will move to the 6th grade classrooms for the morning, seventh grade into the eighth grade classrooms, and the eighth graders will head to the high school for the morning. This is a good day for students, and it does quite a bit to allay some of the students' fears about the next grade level. The students will begin at their usual school building and return there in time for lunch.

Report submitted by Michael Flax
Wednesday, April 1, 2015