

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 3 September 2015
RE: September BOE Report

The following is a summary of building activities and reports for the beginning of the year, 2015-2016.

Curriculum Information – I want to update you on the curriculum changes, advances, and additions for this year. Teachers are working on the BYOC process, and will begin matching those documents with the Edgenuity classes we created a few years ago. This will provide continuity for students who are working to “recover” class work and/or participating in our MTSS support system. (MTSS for our building has its own shape and format between grades 5-8.) A progress review of all BYOC courses has been made, and the BYOC Users’ Group will begin meeting monthly to monitor and review coursework towards publication. Mr. Graham and I are working to prepare for the Aspire Testing this fall. We will be testing grades 7-10 this year. We made the decision to drop testing of lower grades, as the data was not as relevant below grade 7. Hopefully we will complete the testing at the junior high by the end of September. The fifth grade teachers are using the new edition of the Every Day Math Series, having spent time this summer in training for that transition. We have also begun using AIMS-WEB (grade 5 general education and all special education students), Lexia Reading in grade 5, and Reading Plus in grades 7-8. The sixth grade students utilize Expert 21 reading, which provides for leveled reading and support. It has been a busy start with these curricular additions.

Activities Update – Today kicks off the cross country, volleyball, and football seasons. We have approximately 95 student athletes participating this fall. The football team will host Wellsville this evening at Santa Fe Trail High School beginning at 4:00. The volleyball team will travel to Wellsville for A and B matches, also beginning at 4:00. The cross country team will join the high school at Anderson County for the season kickoff. That meet begins at 3:30. I appreciate the work the coaches are doing with these teams. Additionally, Mr. Ed Hug and Mrs. Pat Lira have worked hard to make sure all the KSHSAA forms have been completed and submitted. If you have time you might stop by and watch the athletes in action this season.

Special Education Changes – With two new special education teachers in the building, there have been some changes to our program. Mrs. Lori Puckett and Mrs. Alicia Amborski have joined our staff, replacing Scott Adams in the resource room and Tina McIver as the gifted facility respectively. Our caseload for special education has increased, and we have found the need for additional special education paraprofessionals. We have shuffled many student, para and teacher schedules to meet the requirements of the written IEP’s. Even with that we are seeing the need for additional support. We are hoping to have this ironed out in the next week or so. We have also found the need to reorganize the gifted programming this year. Students will be pulled out

of classes to meet the requirements of their IEP's. They will receive the correct amount of minutes as written, and will focus on individual interest and need. Some parent meetings have been necessary to discuss the gifted program.

College Campus Visits – I met with the committee on college visits last week. In that discussion it was mentioned that the fifth and sixth grade students are really not getting “career and college” information so much as it is basically a field trip to them. The committee asked, and I approved, that we would no longer take the fifth and sixth graders to college campuses. In order for our students to still visit all four before high school, the seventh and eighth grade students will take two campus visits per year in the coming years. This year, however, they will just attend one. The seventh graders will be heading to Emporia State University in October for a visit. The eighth grade students will be traveling to Washburn and Washburn Tech later in the year. The Overbrook Rotary Club met with me regarding a grant they are writing. They wanted us to be the beneficiary of their project this year. They have met with Gretta Hug and myself since to shore up information for the grant. We are creating a College and Career Ready information display in our library, utilizing materials from the colleges and universities in the state. The Overbrook Rotary Club will be donating funds for this project. We are grateful to them for this opportunity to provide information to all students about several options they will have upon graduation from high school.

Drug Testing – The student ID numbers for our fall athletes have been submitted to the drug testing company to begin our pull. Just today I received our first list of students who will be tested. We will do that as soon as our new nurse has been trained. That should happen next week. The first round of testing will be conducted with the district RN and our nurse, Carey Lantis. Three students from the building will be selected each week for drug testing.

Wellness Committee – We have kicked off a district-wide wellness initiative this past week, and are anxious to see about participation. At the football scrimmage and cross country run last Friday night, Jeanette Lewis and Kristy Hamit worked to set up a health fair just east of the football field. Several areas of health were addressed at the fair. The Lions Club hosted vision screening in the high school, Lacey Black had a group on fitness, Emporia Mental Health hosted a booth, nursing students from Washburn conducted blood pressure screenings, Ed Pyle with Auburn Pharmacy signed students aged 5-12 up for a prescription service that offers free meds for those students, and any students and/or families who walked the track for ½ mile were offered free water and fruit and vegetables. The water was donated by the Carbondale Thriftway, and Lee Lojka, district food service director provided the carrots and grapes. For September we have begun a healthy food campaign. All district staff is encouraged to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables at least five times a week throughout the month. They will keep track on a calendar we created for them, and submit them at the end of the month. Anyone who completes the challenge will have their name entered into a drawing. I am working on some grant opportunities. We will keep you posted about coming activities for the district wellness campaign.

Submitted by Michael Flax