

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High School  
BOE Report – September 2016

The following is a report on the activities and updates for the beginning of the year at the CAC / SFTJH. The summer calendar is at its end, but the weather has not done its part in letting autumn in. However, last Thursday evening the weather was great at Anderson County and Wellsville. Just the right temperature and just enough breeze to make running tolerable and it seemed like football weather.

Activities Update – As stated above, we have begun all three of our fall sports; volleyball, football, and cross country. All three teams kicked off their season last Thursday on the road. I attended the cross country meet in Garnett, and then traveled to Wellsville for football. Mrs. Hamit went to Jeff West for the volleyball marathon. (It lasted well over five hours.) We also participated in three events this week: VB won at Prairie View; Cross Country ran at Lyndon, with the top seventh grade boys taking first, second, and third in their race; and FB hosted Anderson County. The seventh grade lost their game, and the eighth grade boys won in overtime.

Uniforms – We have had quite the fiasco with our volleyball uniforms so far. We met last February with the representative from TR Sports (Tom Palmer from Sabetha is our rep.) to discuss new uniforms for volleyball, wrestling and track. In the spring we finalized the order with an August 1 delivery date. We did not have them, as the material was not ordered in time, and then when they did order the material was backordered. I gave them a deadline of last Friday, and they were delivered to the office on Friday. When we unpacked the box to distribute them to the team, we found upwards of twenty with holes in or near the seams, and several with red ink spots on the blue fabric. The owner of the company visited with Ed Hug and me yesterday. He is coming in today to meet with us and take the uniforms back. After our meeting we will decide our next step.

School Improvement – We have secured chairs for all of the five school improvement target goal areas and a building chair as well.

Allison Folger – Building Chair

Tiffany Burget – Data Chair

Courtnee Maichel – Math Chair

Nicole Prochaska – Reading Chair

Josh Cauthon – Writing Chair

Kayla Chiddix – Soft Skills/21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Chair

I am excited about the school improvement process, as I have been involved with it for much of my teaching and administrative career. During my time at SAC and part of the time while at CAC I served as a visiting team member and a visiting team chair for several schools in the Topeka area, including the Seaman District, Auburn-Washburn and West Franklin. I also served on the State Council for School Improvement for several years as well. With the leadership abilities of staff here, I have no doubt that we will meet all the requirements for accreditation.

Enrollment Numbers – As of this time we seem settled for the start of the year. On our Power School Enrollment Summary we show 370 students. Of those, two are not attending school at Carbondale, but at an alternative site. The breakdown is as follows:

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	29 boys and 27 girls	56 total
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	54 boys and 31 girls	85 total
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	41 boys and 32 girls	73 total
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	43 boys and 36 girls	79 total
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	44 boys and 33 girls	77 total
TOTAL	211 boys and 159 girls	370 total

Fundraiser – We have kicked off our annual fall Red Wheel Fundraiser. We use the funds for activities and trips throughout the year that are not covered by the budget. Our goal is to sell 1111 items, which is an average of three items per student. Participation is optional, and the students have been told that. Last year, however, the junior high students did not participate (I believe there were 6 or 7 students who sold items) for the most part, but they made the most requests for extra activities and trips. I did tell them this year that they would not get extra trips if they did not contribute in better numbers than last year. While I see the thought that they should never be held responsible for participating in a fundraiser, I also believe that they should not reap the benefits of the work of the younger students without effort of their own.

Chromebooks – The students have their Chromebooks in their hands, and teachers are using them for instruction almost daily in many classes. We have tweaked the way we distribute and return them each day, and we hope that makes the process more fluid and less disruptive. A couple of students have not taken care of theirs as well as we had hoped, and one has found his way to using someone else's. His use has been restricted, and I am meeting with his mother today. The beginning-of-year assessments are being taken on these devices, and so far we have not had any big issues for the most part.

Staff Acclimation – It seems that the new staff has acclimated quite well to CAC. We have 24 staff members in the building who were not here last year. I have met with most of them to see how they are doing and what we can do to make the transition easy for them. All appear to be where they are supposed to be and taking care of business as usual.

Halloween - With the addition of 4<sup>th</sup> grade to CAC this year, both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will celebrate Halloween with a parade and party.

Reminder – Next week is Spirit Week at SFTHS. CAC does not participate in the high school spirit week activities because our spirit week is part of our Red Ribbon week activities. I will send an all school alert about this, but wanted you to know in case you receive any questions from the community.

Submitted by Michael Flax  
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