

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

The following is a report on the activities and updates for the first two months at the CAC / SFTJH. Finally it feels like autumn.

Activities Update – We have completed the volleyball season for 2016. Both the seventh and eighth grade teams competed in the Pioneer League Volleyball Tournament at Burlington on Saturday, October 1. The seventh graders entered the tourney as the number 1 seed, having to only play one match before the championship. They entered the championship match against Burlington and lost in three sets. The eighth grade team won their first two matches of the tournament rather easily. They met up with the number 1 seed Osawatomie Trojans in the finals, losing in three sets. Cross country continues its season, with our runners placing in the top ten frequently. We have two runners who are almost always at the head of the pack. Eighth grader Antwone White and seventh grader Hayden Stumpf have finished in the top three (usually top two) in every meet. Other SFT runners are close behind, with students battling each other for placing and medals. The football teams have found some success this year, with both the seventh and eighth grade teams winning some games. They have played close games as well as being on both ends of games that required a running clock in the second half. Girls' basketball practices are underway

Red Wheel – For the past several years I have sponsored a building fundraiser using the Red Wheel products. The money raised in this fundraiser is used strictly on student activities and trips in the second semester. Participation is always voluntary, but encouraged. This year (as of the last invoice before corrections and additions) 122 students sold a total of 1081 items. Our goal was 1,111 items, which averages out to 3 items per students. Even though we were short of our goal our profits were up over \$2600. This year's profit was \$6856.12, as compared to last year's profit of \$4209.62. The addition of fourth grade helped, but more importantly the junior high students participated in greater numbers this year. Last year we had fewer than 10 junior high students participate, yet they made the most requests for funds for extra activities and trips. This has been a successful endeavor for us, and I plan to do it one more year.

Discipline Referrals – I have seen fewer students referred to the office for disciplinary reasons than usual. However, a small number of students is taking up a great amount of administrative attention. Kristy and I are dealing with discipline daily, and I know that is not a surprise to any of you. We continue to strive to make this building safe for every student and staff member. Unfortunately we have had to utilize the school resource officer a few times, and fortunately we have a resource officer at our disposal. I try to not make this an excuse for anything, but Kristy and I have discussed this between us and with Dr. Pegram many times. Our days do not flow without interruption, sometimes requiring an entire morning or afternoon's attention with and on behalf of students with behavioral issues.

Aspire Testing – We will take the annual Aspire Tests for grades 7-8 in October. The Aspire is a battery of five tests: Reading, Science, Math, Writing, and English. We share the results with parents during the second semester parent-teacher conferences. The past few years our lowest area has been writing, and we are addressing that across the curriculum. Our school improvement plan will include a writing goal, and teachers will be developing plans to improve the individual writing scores, as well as how that transitions to the content areas. This year students will be able to test on their Chromebooks, which will make scheduling much easier and less disruptive. Mrs. Hamit has developed a schedule whereby each student will only test two days, rather than the five it took us in years past without the individual technology tools.

Red Ribbon Week – StuCo is getting rolling, and October is a very busy month for them. One of the items on the schedule for the building is our annual Red Ribbon Week. The last week of October will provide students an opportunity to focus on character, the importance of drug awareness and prevention, and to celebrate our students with our Spirit Week. Other October activities for them include the selling of Boo Bags, which students may purchase for themselves or for others. We also are participating in Bullying Prevention Month. This morning fifth-grader Vaughn Decker addressed the students with the first message of many for the month.

Chromebooks – The Chromebooks are in the hands of students and they are using them often. I have seen note-taking, research, homework assignments, and project work all being done on the Chromebooks. A few students have lost privileges for short times for accessing music and sites they are not approved for. We have not had any repeats of this from individual students. Additionally, the individualized instruction classrooms are using them daily for instruction and practice. Next week the seventh and eighth graders will go to the high school to participate in Tech Town, sponsored by Washburn Tech. This is a career awareness day, with several stations for students to rotate through, so students can learn about options they have for their futures. Unrelated to technology, our seventh grade girls will be attending Washburn University's Women In Science Day next Wednesday, October 12. They have made this trip every year that I have been in this building, and Mrs. Harlan does a great job with the follow-up to this day.

Submitted by Michael Flax
7 October 2016