

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

The following is a report on the activities and updates for October and November at the Carbondale Attendance Center.

Activities Update – The girls' basketball team has begun its season with a trip to Burlington and hosting Anderson County. The seventh grade A-team defeated Anderson County. Otherwise we have not experienced a win. The girls are competitive, and should win their share of games throughout the season. This week they travel to Iola on Tuesday and host Burlington. The wrestling season begins today, with us hosting Osawatomie and Prairie View at SFTHS. (By the time you read this these games and matches will be in the past.) Then this coming Saturday they will compete at the Pioneer League Wrestling Tournament at Anderson County.

Aspire Testing – Today we are beginning the first test session of the Aspire Tests. One seventh grade math class will be taking that subtest, with the rest of the testing to be done on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Hopefully we can get all the tests completed, including makeups on Friday, this week. We have had several students absent the past week and so far this week. The Chromebooks have made scheduling the testing sessions much easier, as students will test on their Chromebooks following their regular class schedules.

Red Ribbon Week – Our students participated in Red Ribbon Week by having our Spirit Week activities October 24-27. Students and staff were dressed up each day, and each day had a theme wrapped around drug awareness. Many students participated each day, and the building was active and enjoyable. I understand the perspective of district patrons regarding our hosting of our own Spirit Week, but our students and staff really seemed to enjoy celebrating our school. Each day outstanding shows of spirit were recognized at each grade level and among staff.

Band and Choir Concerts - We are getting into the winter concert season. As we have experienced capacity issues in the Fine Arts Dome, all concerts for grades 4-8 will be held at Carbondale in the gym. We have two concerts in November, an 8th grade band and choir concert and a 6th grade band/7th grade band and choir concert. Reminder alerts will be sent out to the parents at CAC, as well as notification in the parent newsletters.

Celebrations/Halloween Parties – Every grade level has now had a first quarter reward celebration and some sort of Halloween party. It was great to see fourth and fifth grade students dressed in their Halloween costumes yesterday, and their parade from the building to downtown was a lot of fun. Having fourth grade back in the building is a good thing, and it feels like there is a real elementary school and a real junior high here again. The seventh and eighth graders celebrated the end of the first quarter with a bowling trip and an afternoon of a dance and games. It was a fun time. Forty-four junior high students did not qualify for that reward. I asked each of them what held them back. All of them except for three did not qualify based on multiple homework

assignments not being handed in. The teachers will continue to work on student accountability for their work.

Phones – The phone system has been down at CAC. This morning Denise Bahner reported that they have discovered the problem. There was a leak in the roof and water was found on part of the system. It has been creating a short and was not allowing the system to work. Maintenance has made contact with someone, and we are getting the problems corrected. The phones are working as of 10:40 a.m. today. An alert will be sent to parents letting them know the phones are working again.

Veteran's Day – We will be celebrating Veteran's Day with our annual assembly in the gym. We have set the time for 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 11. Mr. Ed Hug is in charge of the event every year. This year's speaker will be Dick Hamit. Each year we have several dozen veterans in for the assembly, with the bands and choirs entertaining them. We follow that up with the introductions of all veterans present. Some of them tell a short story of their time in the service, and if they have a connection to a student or staff member in the building they recognize them as well. This is one of the best assemblies we have at Carbondale School. A short cookie and tea reception is held for our guests at the end of the program.

Staff Development Days - We are getting prepared for the November Staff Development Days. The school improvement process will be the focus of a majority of the two days. It is my opinion that we have some very strong district and building leadership teams put together. The CAC building chair is Mrs. Allison Folger. She will be working with Mrs. Faith Flory and Mrs. Amy Huizenga as building leaders. At CAC the following are the chairs for the five building committees: Ms. Tiffany Burget – Data; Mrs. Kayla Chiddix – 21st Century Skills; Mrs. Courtnee Maichel – Math; Mr. Josh Cauthon – Writing; and Ms. Nicole Prochaska – Reading. This is a strong group of leaders. I am looking forward to really getting this school improvement model implemented. The rest of the two days will include some technology work among the staff, as well as three staff sharing a writing activity, Mr. Cauthon leading a team-building activity, and Mrs. Cindy Moulin sharing her blended learning/project-based instruction/individualized learning experiences. There is a lot going on those two days.

FLBA – Mrs. Gretta Hug has agreed to sponsor a Junior FBLA organization here at the SFTJH. We have lots of students who are showing interest, and much of this year will be laying the groundwork for an active club in which our students will have another opportunity to participate. More information about this will follow in the coming months.

Submitted by Michael Flax
1 November 2016