

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High School
BOE Report –January 2017

The following is a report of the activities and events at the Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High for December 2016 and January 2017.

Christmas Sing! – The last day of school before the break began with the annual Christmas Sing! Mrs. Lari Jarrett, vocal music instructor, planned the event for us again. Activities included each of the junior high choral groups singing, decorating a faculty member, grade level competitions, “Where’s Elf”, and whole group caroling. There were other activities as well, and everyone enjoyed the morning. Mrs. Jarrett puts a lot of work into this activity, and the faculty and students always show their appreciation. That activity gave us a great start to the holiday break.

Discipline Report – The second quarter discipline log reflects 48 office referrals. Of those, 35 detentions were assigned, 4 in-school suspensions, 2 out-of-school suspensions and six conferences. Ten of these involved a violation of the Chromebook usage. One bus referral was issued where parent contact was made. (I do not record bus referrals if the bus driver does not contact the parents, as the referral form states that is necessary for a first infraction.) While this is what I have on record, there have been many other incidents where Mrs. Hamit or I have been called to areas of the building for our assistance with identified students. There is no reasonable way to record each of those, as they occur almost daily and last any length of time between a few minutes and a couple of hours where our assistance is necessary.

Activities – The boys’ basketball season is underway, with our first game this Thursday at Iola. We have 21 eighth graders and 24 seventh graders participating, plus managers for each team. Coaches are Jim Duncan for eighth grade and Lance Quilling for seventh grade. Josh Lamb is an assistant for both. We have determined the need for use of the SAC facility for practice two to three days a week. We will also begin practicing later this month for Scholars’ Bowl season. Those contests will begin in February.

Osage County Spelling Bee – We are hosting the Osage County Spelling Bee this year. We have requested the use of the district auditorium for the event. It will be held on February 3, beginning at 10:00. Right before Christmas we had grade level preliminary contests. From those the top three students from each grade level will compete in our building spelling final. That competition will be on Wednesday, January 11. Mrs. Gretta Hug and Mrs. Allison Folger will be managing both of those contests for us.

FBLA – This year we have started a chapter of FBLA here at SFTJH. Mrs. Gretta Hug is the sponsor. 40 seventh and eighth grade students are participating. On February 1 they will be competing at Emporia State University in several areas. These include Financial Math, Business Communications, Parliamentary Procedure, Career Exploration and others. They have requested, and so I am requesting from you, they be allowed to manage a pretzel sale fund raiser at the school

each day before activity period. There will be no sales outside of our students and staff. Earlier in December elections were held for the officers. The results are: President – Caroline Vollrath; Vice President – Isaac Hook; Secretary – Lily Graham; Treasurer – Brock Robert; and Reporter – Thomas Baughman. We are glad to have this activity for our students to coincide with our college and career prep work.

Sixth Grade Considerations – Mrs. Hamit and I have been discussing the sixth grade organization over the past several months. When we made the change to sixth grade on the 7-period day it saved the district financially, and created space in the building. We don't believe it to be a bad set-up as far as the subject area instructional purposes. Over time, however, several aspects of the organization have been found to be lacking. With shared staffing between sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teachers, some of our elective classes were cut. Also, our support classes for students who struggle in regular education but are not identified as special needs were eliminated. Our "course recovery class" was lost when Mr. Quilling was needed an additional hour at the high school. Recess and student break times were eliminated with the 7-period day, which has not been met positively with parents. We are requesting that we return sixth grade to a self-contained format. That will enhance programming for all three grade levels, as more exploratory classes will be available to seventh and eighth graders. Sixth grade will have the flexibility for classroom instructional periods to fluctuate as necessary, recess to be restored, and individual sixth grade students could be added to the at-risk support groupings. Mrs. Hamit and I will be able to field questions at the BOE meeting, via phone calls, or visits to the office. We will wait for our scheduling for next year until we have clear direction and/or approval of the BOE, and we appreciate your consideration of this request.

Submitted by Michael Flax
3 January 2016