



Carbondale Attendance Center Board of Education Report Submitted Thursday, October 8th, 2020

Ben O'Dell

Principal
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USD 434 Board Members,

We are in the process of wrapping up an important week at CAC. Friday is the end of the abbreviated first quarter with a teacher workday. Many students in grades six, seven, and eight are returning from quarantine and/or remote learning as of the submission of this report. Parent-Teacher conferences are on the horizon, and we are well into our curricular plans for the year. Needless to say it has been a busy week for everyone.

Kevan O'Shea

Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director
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We have used the time with sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students out of the building to revise our morning procedures. We looked at the risk of our existing morning routines and decided to revise them to make them safer. All students eating breakfast will do so upon their arrival at school. We have limited the students in the gym in the morning to 7th and 8th grade only, and spacing them at seven feet apart for adequate social distancing. We have moved sixth grade in the morning before school to the west end of the main hallway to give us the ability to socially distance them at six feet for safety, and to isolate them from the other grades. Fourth and fifth grade routines have already changed to send kids out to the playground in the morning, and that has gone well. These structural changes come at a cost, but we felt they were needed to minimize exposure risk. The new procedures were shared via a video on Thursday, October 8th in first hour classes. The same video will also be shared with parents.

Maggie Mead

School Social Worker
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Parent-Teacher conferences have been put on the calendar for October 26 and 27. All conferences will be done by appointment with the classroom teacher in fourth and fifth grade, and with mentor teacher in grades six, seven, and eight. Parents will have the ability to schedule individual conferences with other teachers (elective and core) on top of their main conference if needed. Staff will share information as grade level teams for conferences, including teacher requests for specific parent conferences as we get closer to the dates. Where possible we will encourage virtual conferences via Zoom to further limit persons on campus.

Angela Black

School Counselor
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Fourth and Fifth grade have been hard at work in the building in the last few weeks. The implementation of our Comprehensive Literacy program continues in both grades. Melanie Wallace has been invaluable support to staff with implementation. She has been a substitute teacher to free up staff to observe their peers, and even modeling correct implementation of the model in CAC classes when needed. Thanks to Melanie for helping the CAC staff work better and smarter! Fourth and Fifth grade continue to use the Leader in Me program to set the building-wide expectations for goal-setting and leadership with our younger students. Class jobs have been assigned, and students are jumping in to leadership roles daily. STEM has been a focus in Ms. Lattimer's fourth grade class. Students have gone hands-on with KEVA Plank marble runs, coding with Dash Bots, and learned about electricity by making working electrical circuits. At right is one student creating bongo circuits from bananas using Makey Makey's materials.

Kristy Markham

School Nurse
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The transition to and return from remote learning in junior high school classes has been challenging. While we have tried to plan for the possibility of moving to remote learning with little warning, the reality of it was a wakeup call for staff. We have learned some hard lessons about preparation and the need to have robust instructional plans set to go at a moment's notice. Students have responded with a wide array of work levels, ranging from not missing a beat to missing-in-action and everything in between. With students back in class we are working hard to make up any academic gaps from the time in remote learning. We as a staff are reviewing and revising instructional planning with an eye to training the kids to respond if/when we go to remote learning or quarantine again.

Kevan O'Shea

Assistant Principal / Athletic Director
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Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing was delayed at CAC with the recent period in remote learning. Students and staff in grades six, seven, and eight will be launching into MAP testing beginning the week of October 12th. Schedule changes will be communicated to students and staff as needed. Helpful suggestions for parents regarding their students testing (getting a good night's sleep, eating breakfast, encouraging students to try their best, and so forth) will go out to parents. Thanks to Faith Flory for her help getting MAP testing squared away for our kids – the academic data we collect will help staff evaluate placement for students needing additional supports.

Maggie Mead

School Social Worker
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Staff teaching in Summit at the junior high school will be joined by their colleagues at the high school on Friday, October 9th. The voluntary event was set up through the efforts of teachers at both buildings when both buildings expressed interest. The meeting's goals are for all teachers to compare notes on what works, share suggestions, and explore how to make the Summit implementation as effective and as seamless as possible in grades six through twelve.

Angela Black

School Counselor
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Our counseling staff has been busy in the building. Ms. Black works with four social groups that meet during lunch each week. Ms. Black is also exploring career choices and individual plans of study with students in Ms. Michaelis' room each month. Ms. Mead meets weekly with all fourth and fifth grade students. They have looked at bullying, and will be transitioning into Red Ribbon Week activities and the importance of making healthy life choices next. Both report that student and staff emotional needs are high in this uncertain time.

Kristy Markham

School Nurse
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The Girls Basketball and Wrestling seasons kick off on Monday, October 19th after school. Students will attend organizational meetings with coaches next week. Spectator health and safety while attending basketball games and wrestling meets is a concern that we are looking at closely. Working with the coaches in our building and administrators at other league schools we hope to find creative ways to maximize fan involvement while minimizing risk. We will communicate the situation to all stakeholders when things are more concrete.

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Respectfully submitted,

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