

Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

September 14, 2020

Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

Student and Staff Notable Learning

Distance Learners

Here are the current numbers of distance learners 4K - 8th Grade: 38

Grades 4K - 3 are utilizing the SeeSaw App and creating packets for the students. Parents pick up and drop off in the ES office. Grades 4 - 8 utilize Google Classroom and provide materials as needed. Teachers in Grades 4K - 3 connect with families as much as they can during lunch, prep, before and after school. They do not have additional time in their day or week to connect with the distance learners. Teachers in Grades 4 - 5 connect through email and Google Classroom. Teachers in Grades 6 - 8 connect through email and Google Classroom. They also have Wednesdays available to meet with all distance learners as there are no students in Grades 6 - 8 at school. Each teacher has set office hours where students can connect via a Google Meet and can be reached by email or appointment. All teachers can be reached by telephone or email.

Lunch Room and Recess Information

Students in Grades 4K - 1st eat in the cafeteria. The children are spaced in a zigzag formation at the tables. There are 6 students per table. Tables are washed by adults after students are done eating lunch. Lunch times are staggered 10 minutes apart to help with social distancing. Grades 2 - 5 eat in their classrooms. Grades 6 - 8 eat in the cafeteria. Please note: Junior High students are given 30 minutes to eat lunch, but they have the option to go outside when they are done eating. There is supervision in both areas during this time. There is a recess supervisor for each grade level / group of students. Students in Grades 4K - 5 do utilize the playground structure, grassy fields, and black top. Students in Grades 6 - 8 started utilizing equipment during recess on Tuesday, September 8th. All students are expected to go outside for recess.

Junior High Electives / Change with Cohort Groups

The cohort model / schedule affected the junior high elective schedule. Because there were a variety of classes offered to meet the interests / needs of the students, class sizes were too small when we moved to the cohort model. A small committee consisting of the counselors, secretary, and myself revised the elective schedule to provide choice, yet ensure the class sizes were higher. Students in Grades 6 - 8, in the cohort schedule, chose two elective classes of interest. Students report to each elective one day per week. Teachers are not assigning work outside of the class for electives to help maintain an appropriate workload for our junior high students.

6th Grade Electives: Band, Independent Band, Choir, General Music, and STEM

- One music class is required
- These classes are year long

7th Grade Electives: Choir, Band, Communication, Sports Literature, Strength Training, and Art

- Music classes are offered, but not required
- These classes are semester long

8th Grade Electives: Choir, Band, Communication, Sports Literature, Strength Training, and Art

- Music classes are offered, but not required
- These classes are semester long

Innovation and Recognition

Herb Kohl Recipient

Congratulations again to Mrs. Niedfeldt for being a Herb Kohl Winner / Recipient. Lucy Calkins instructional videos for Reading, Writing, and Phonics were purchased to support our teachers and distance learners.

Looking Ahead

Important Dates

Wednesday, September 16th from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 is District Collaboration. The SAIL team is structuring these days to ensure we allow teachers time to work on curriculum as well as staying focused on continuous improvement.

Saturday, October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. the music department is hosting a Mattress Sale through Custom Fundraising Solutions in the Varsity Gym. The company will be taking precautions to ensure the safety of the people supporting this fundraiser. The money raised will benefit students at all levels through the purchase of music, new instruments, new folders, and other supplies that the music finds necessary for the program.