

# Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

November 9, 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**

### ***Google Classroom - Focusing on Consistent Classroom Organization***

The first quarter of the 2020-21 school year, over 40% of students in Grades 6 - 8 reported time management and homework completion as their major concern(s) for the school year, per a survey sent out from the counselor. As a response to the challenges of cohort and distance learning schedules, staff and students collaborated to create a Weekly Agenda organizational tool for Google Classroom.

The Weekly Agenda is one continuous document that lists weekly expectations for each core class for all grade levels using Google Classroom (4th - 8th). Each week by 7:30 a.m. Monday morning, staff update this document with daily lesson titles, activities/plans (what the students are expected to do to learn the lesson), and any assignments the students should be completing.

Students use this document as a daily checklist to learn the content of the lesson, complete assignments, and join Google Meet via links, if applicable. The document is found in the corresponding homeroom Google Classroom and can be printed for students if needed. Students and staff were taught how to use the Weekly Agenda by the school counselors. Data will be collected at the end of 2nd quarter to compare time management and homework completion, as well as gather information on whether or not students utilized the Weekly Agenda.

### **[Weekly Agenda Overview Video Link](#)**

### ***5th Grade Guidance Focuses on Organizational Skills***

Ms. Raygo is working on organizational skills with our 5th graders. Students discussed strategies they use to help them stay organized. They engaged in a hands-on activity where they learned how organization can help save them time. One backpack was organized and one was not. Each student had to "race one another" to find the same item. Students quickly discovered the difference between the backpacks. Students were encouraged to provide helpful tips to the students trying to locate the items. After the activity, the students debriefed on what was helpful and what was not. When the discussion was done, the students went into the hall to organize their lockers. Ms. Raygo continued to help them and provide support while they organized their lockers.

### ***7th Grade Math / Math Strategies***

7th grade students have been working very hard to master rational number operations. They have been able to utilize integer manipulatives in take home bags that Mrs. Knutson created for them at the beginning of the school year. The students are beginning work to solve two step equations building a strong foundation for algebra. Students have balanced hangers in their workbooks and

manipulatives in their take home bag to help them be successful and visualize that two sides of the equation have to be equal.

In addition to the specific strategies mentioned above, each of the students in Grades 6 - 8 have been utilizing instructional videos created both by Mrs. Knutson and other teachers in an online PLC she has joined to network and share resources. Mrs. Knutson is offering distance learning students the ability to join live lessons in addition to viewing the online recorded lessons. Breakout sessions are available for students who want to work in groups from home while still having teacher guidance and support. The on campus learners are still able to simulate group work while social distancing by talking through problems from their desks. Mrs. Knutson is very proud of our Pittsville students' efforts as they work through these unprecedented times.

## Innovation and Recognition

### ***Partnership with the Public Library and Learning from the Library***

Mrs. Abel, our Library Media Specialist, has partnered up with Mrs. Tammy Hardinger, the director of the public library here in Pittsville to encourage families to participate in read alouds. They met to discuss strategies to share with families and to provide a list of books that may interest students.

In Library class with Mrs. Abel, the first graders enjoyed reading the silly cumulative story "*There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves.*" Using a web diagram, students described characteristics of the old lady. While this is a funny story, many of the students were able to identify that the cumulative nature was leading up to a scarecrow being built once the old lady sneezed.

Fourth graders are feeling more comfortable using Google Classroom, including in their library class! All students were able to go to Mrs. Abel's Google Classroom and pull up a digital copy of Roald Dahl's book, "*Witches*" and participate in a classroom read-aloud and discussion.

### ***Principal Project is Complete***

I have officially visited each classroom in order to complete this year's Principal Project. Each year, I visit every classroom from 4K - 8 to connect with the students. The staff and students all create one part of the project. While the actual creation might not be the focus, it is the message that every child matters and every child in our building is what makes our school special! Fostering creativity in our students is important to me. With a few guidelines to keep the project structured, it always allows for students to be creative and express themselves. All the students shared the story within their picture so every time I walk by the bulletin board, I know how special each individual square is! This year the students created drawings (or words) of what makes them happy. "What you pay attention to, grows." *Spread kindness, happiness, and positivity!*



## Looking Ahead

### ***Shared Leadership***

Shared Leadership meets once a month and consists of representatives from various staff groups. From a staff survey, it was clear to the group that our main focus this year is on changing the climate / culture of our staff. Next month we are focusing on creating detailed action steps to help create a more positive environment among staff.

### ***Veteran's Day 2020***

While there is no program here at school, the students are still honoring and recognizing the Veterans. Each grade level (from 4K - 8) chooses how they want to recognize the Veterans. This year grade levels are making cards, origami ornaments, and more. There will be a display in our cafeteria for our staff and students to see and I will be delivering the items and displaying the items in the Legion Hall. The elementary and high school have created a video that will be available for viewing on our website and via Facebook.

### ***SAIL (School Administrators Institute for Transformational Leadership)***

Our district SAIL team will participate in a virtual conference on Thursday, November 19th.

### ***SLATE (School Leaders Advancing Technology in Education)***

All teachers were invited to attend this conference December 7 - 9; Ms. Van Haren and I will be attending from the Elementary School. There are teachers also participating from the High School.